

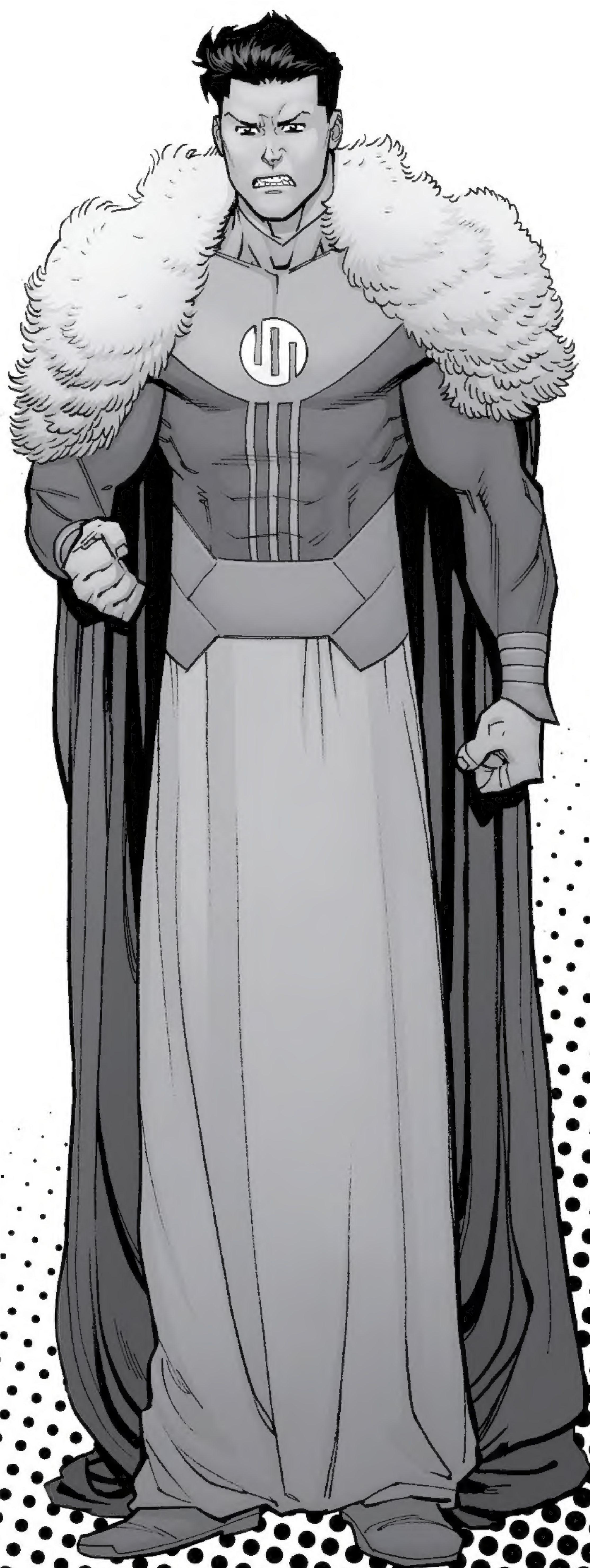
KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • WALKER • FAIRBAIRN

INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE

THE END OF ALL THINGS
PART TWO



image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

**THE END OF ALL THINGS
PART TWO**



**CREATED BY
ROBERT KIRKMAN
& CORY WALKER**

image®



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**RYAN OTTLEY
& NATHAN FAIRBAIRN**

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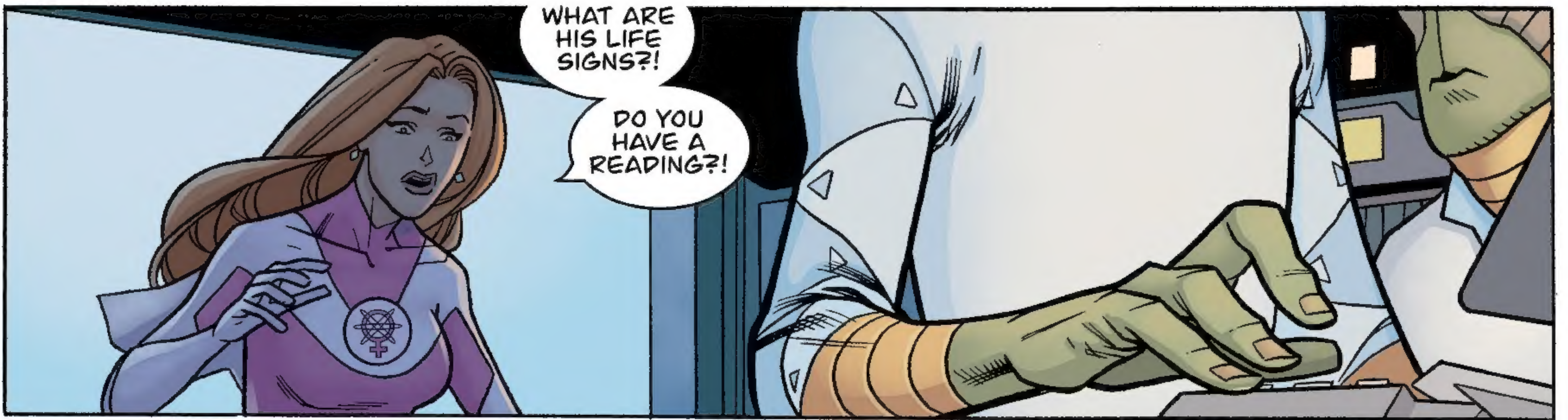
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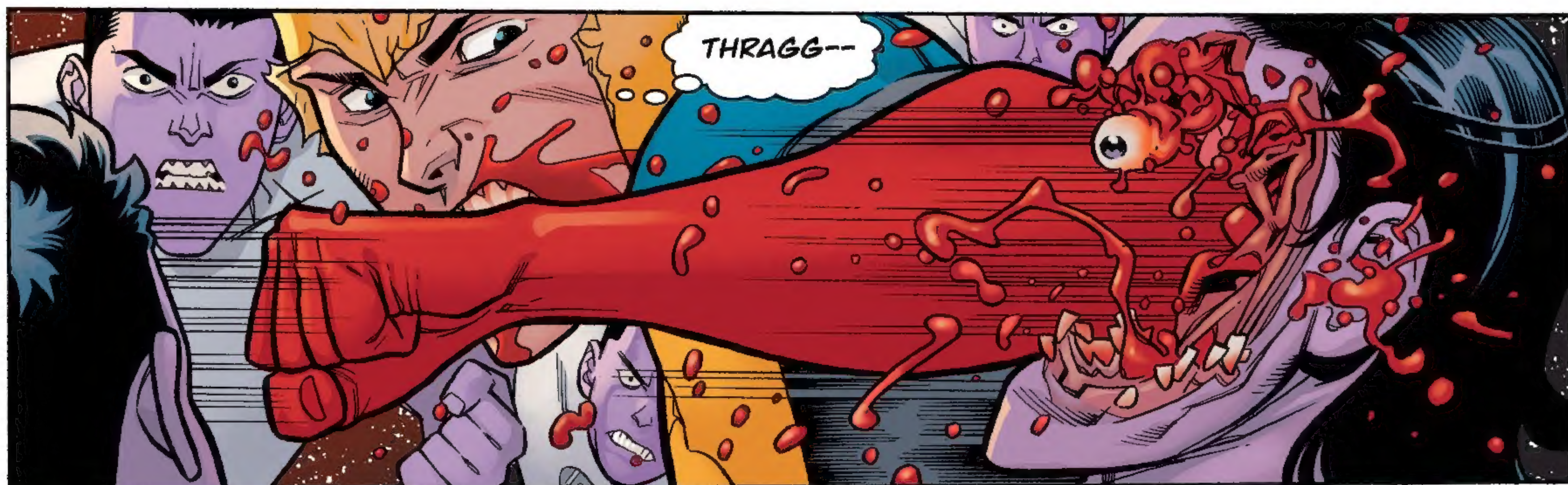
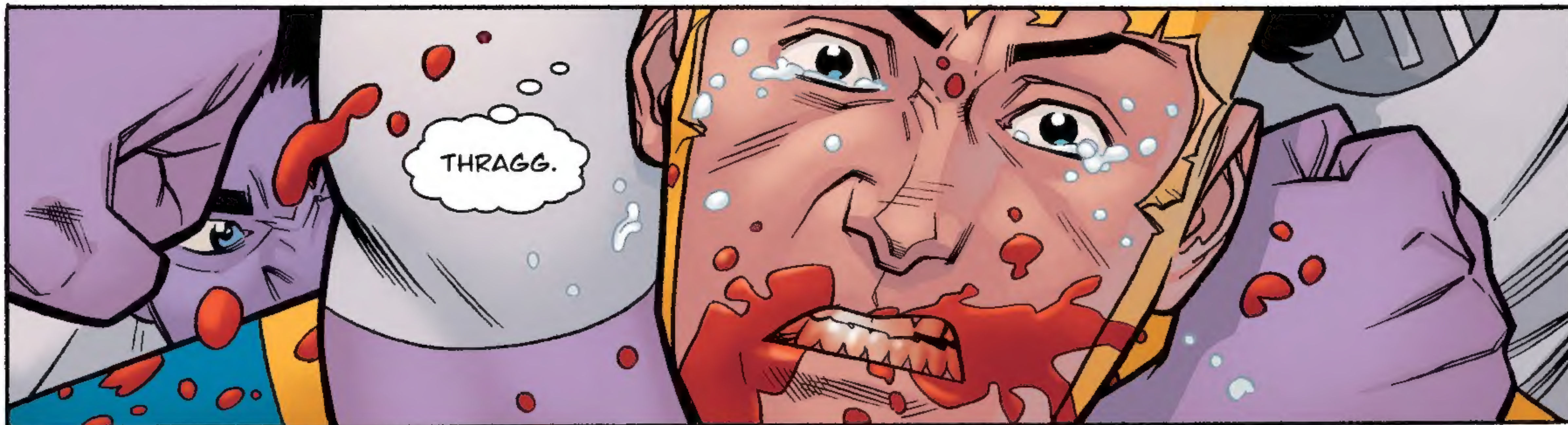
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CHAPTER ONE









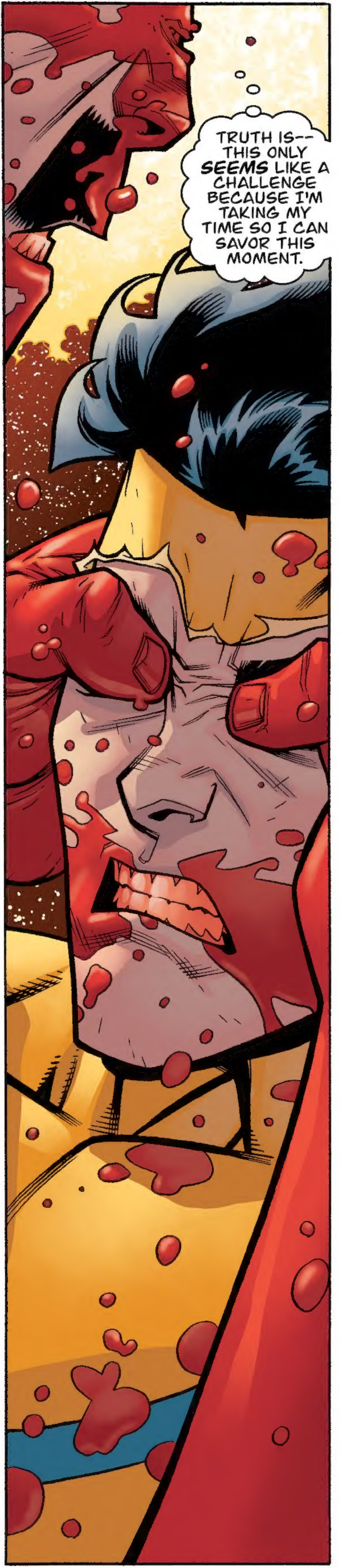




YOU'RE INSANE!

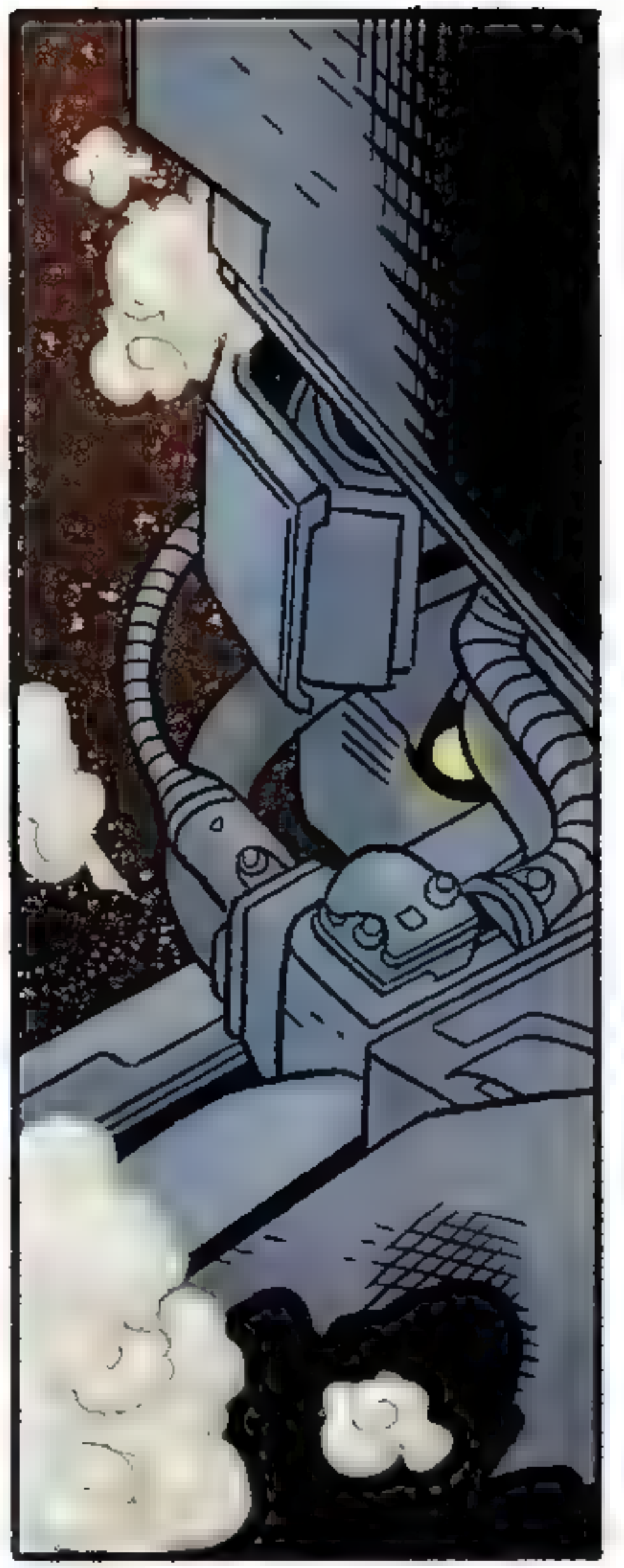
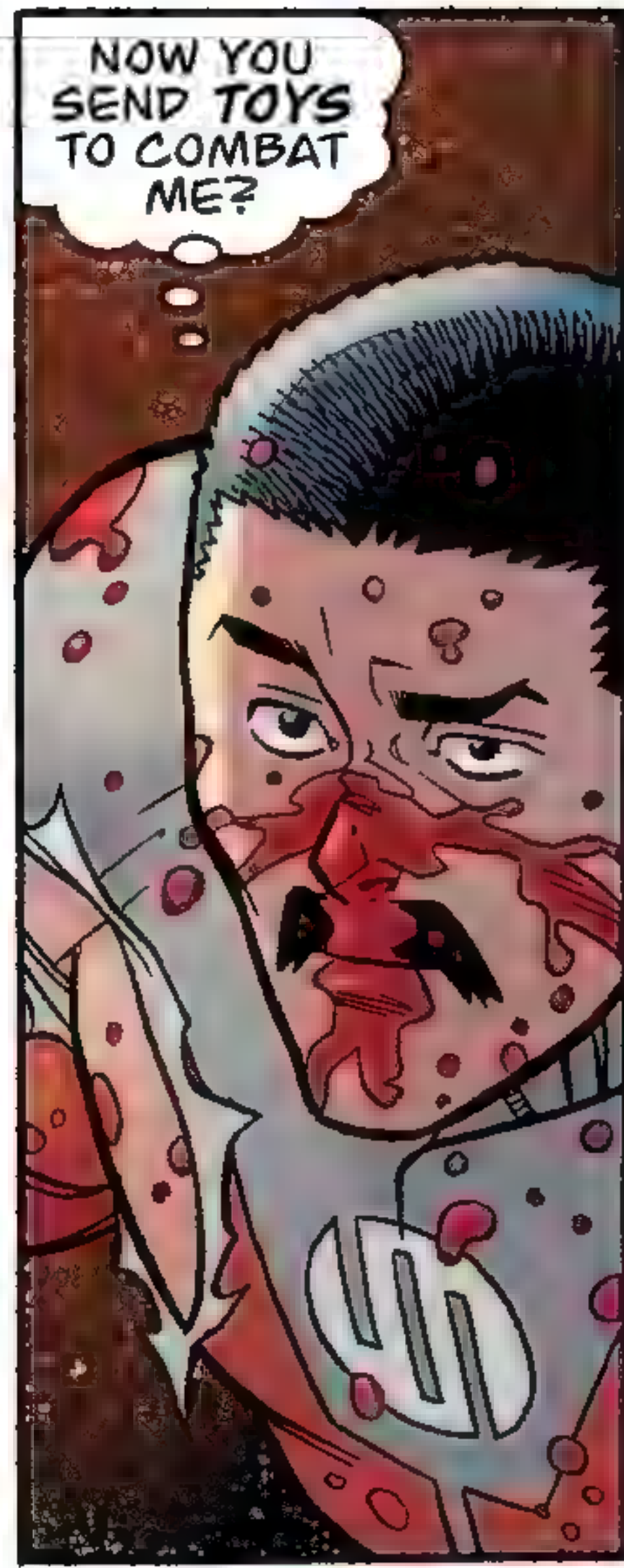
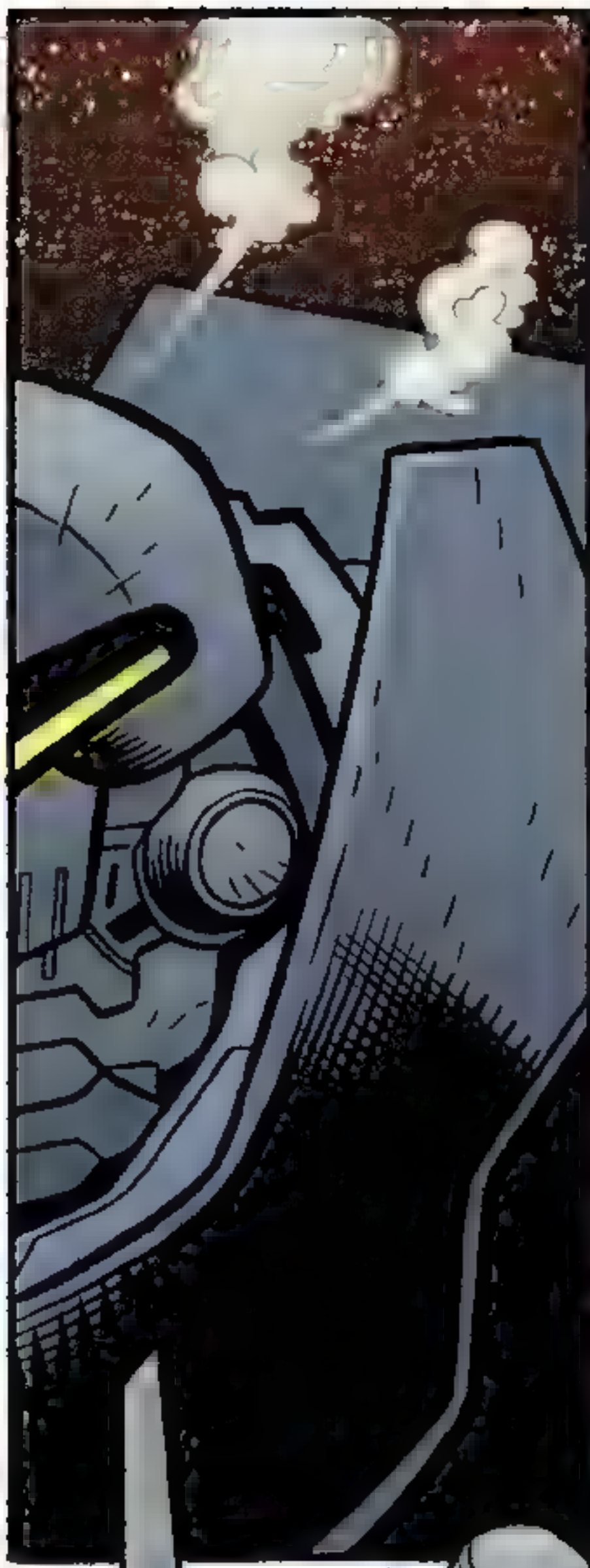


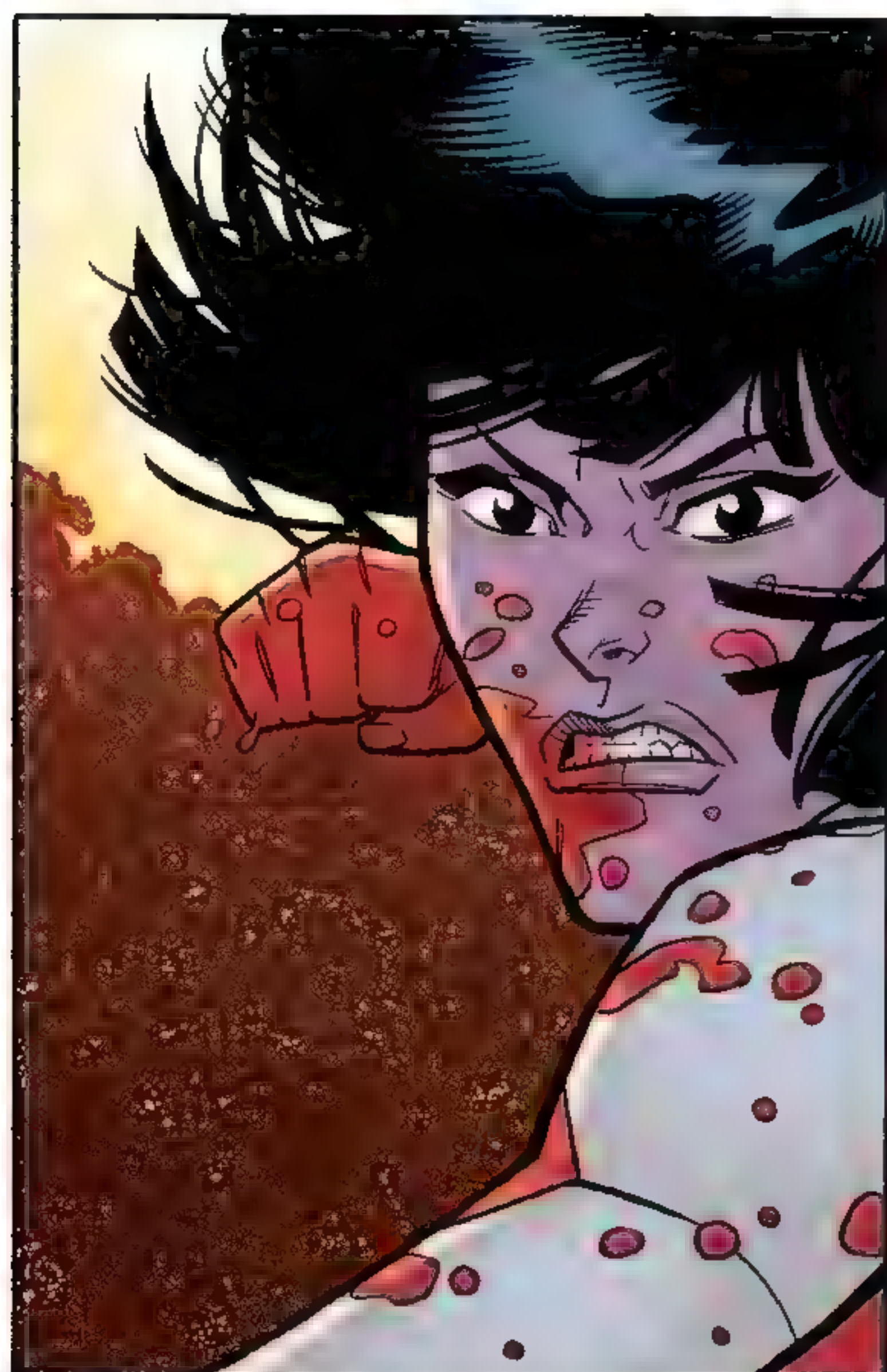
NICELY DONE--
THAT BLOOD
OF ARGALL IS
DOING YOU
SOME
GOOD.

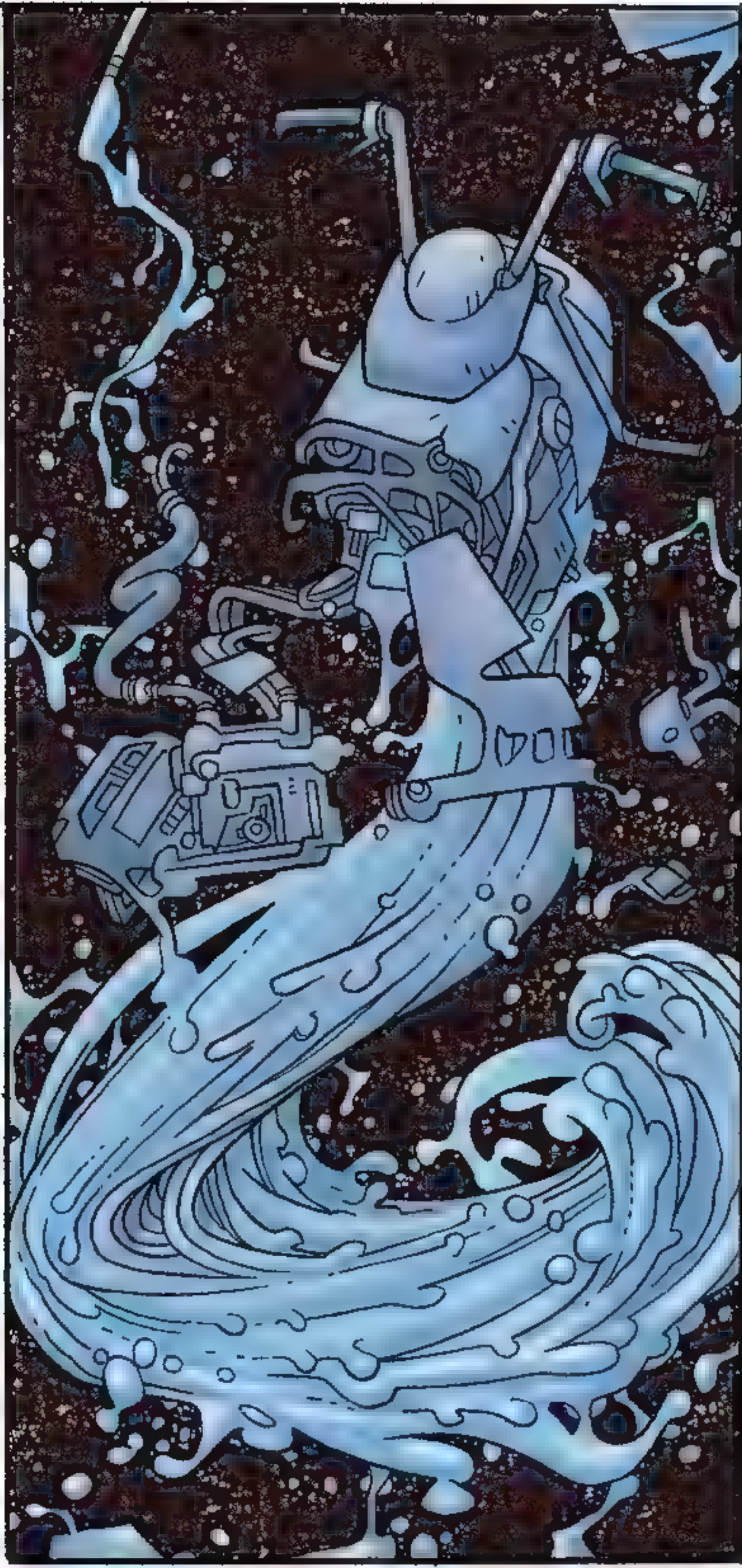


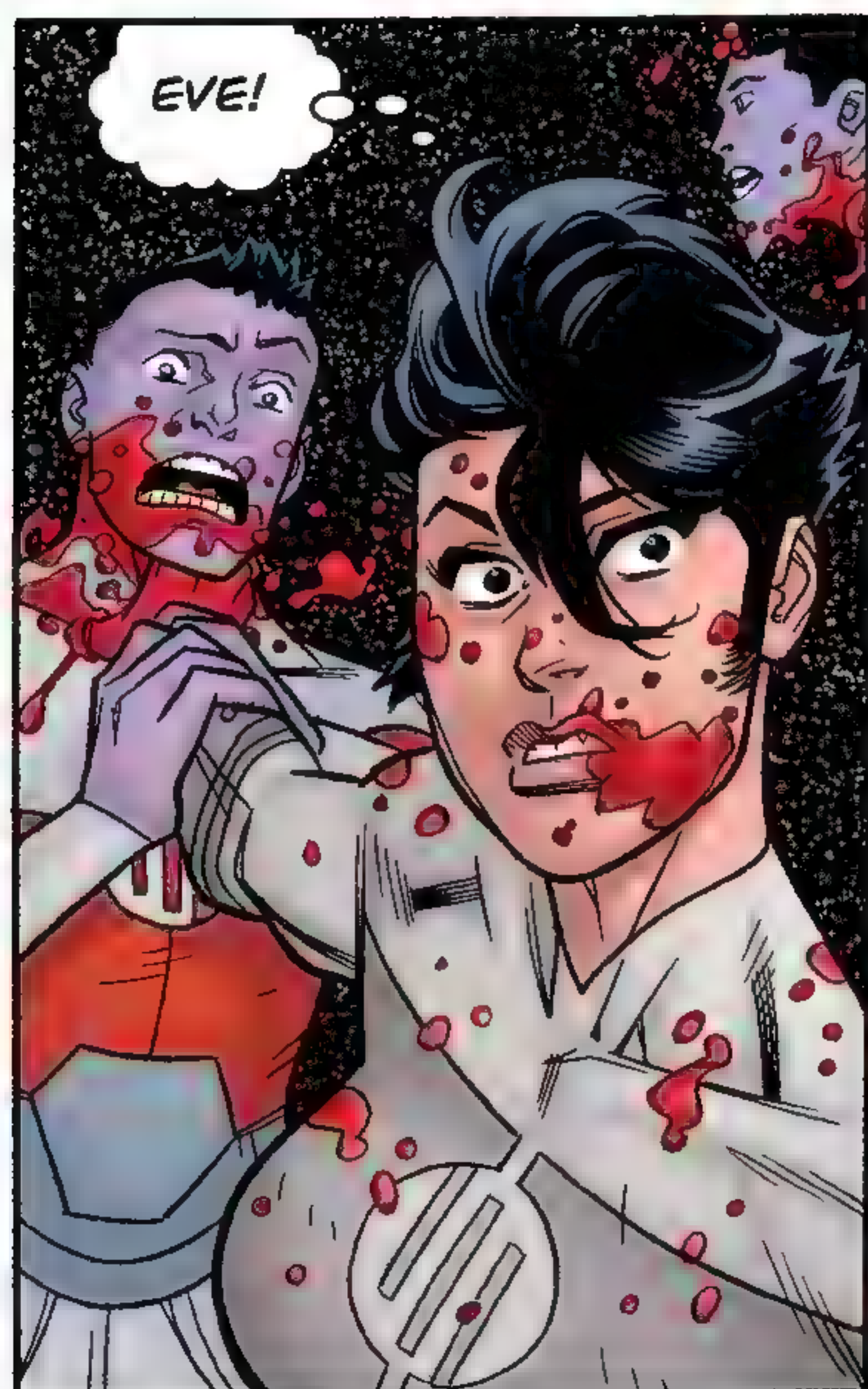
TRUTH IS--
THIS ONLY
SEEMS LIKE A
CHALLENGE
BECAUSE I'M
TAKING MY
TIME SO I CAN
SAVOR THIS
MOMENT.

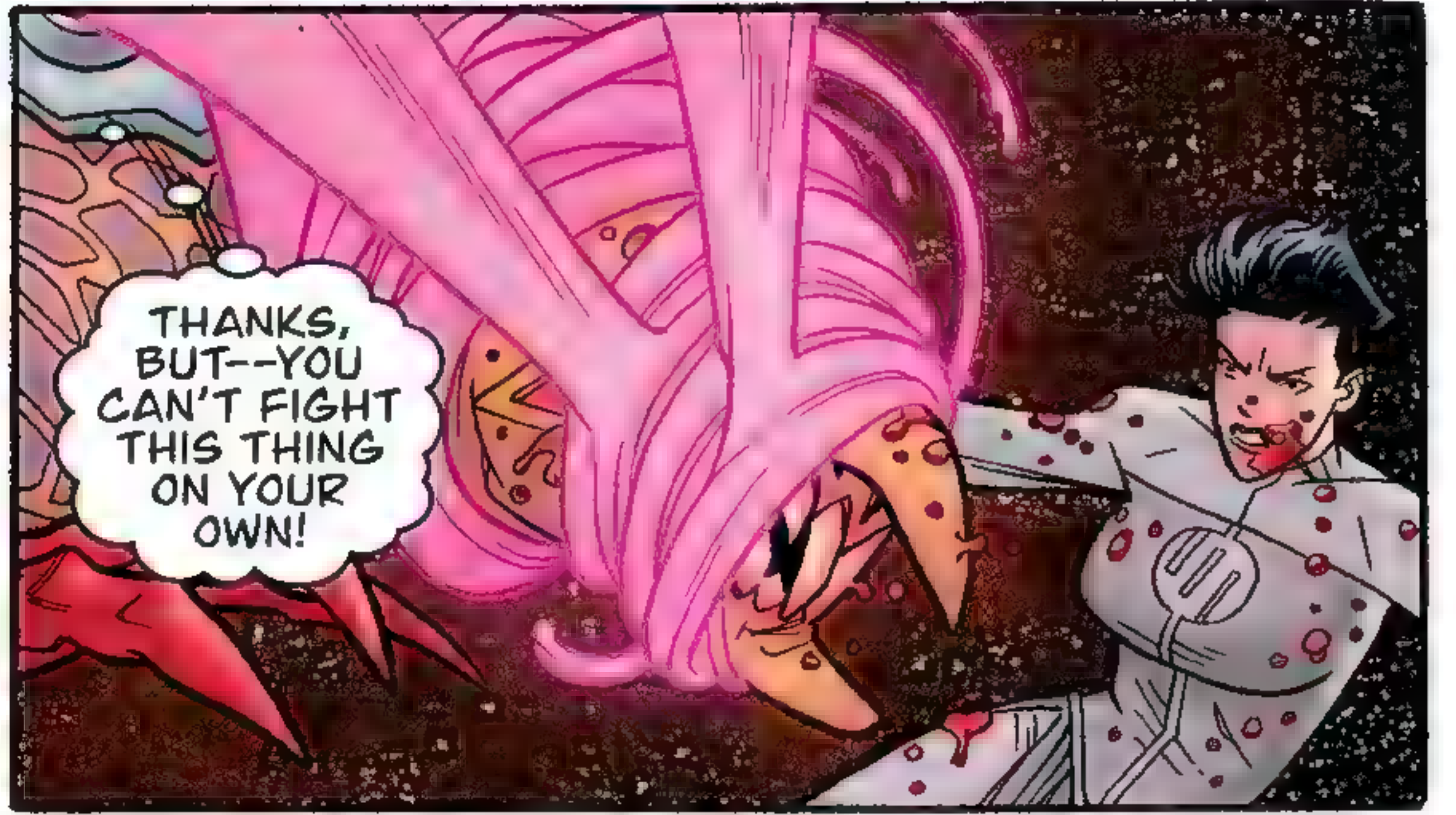
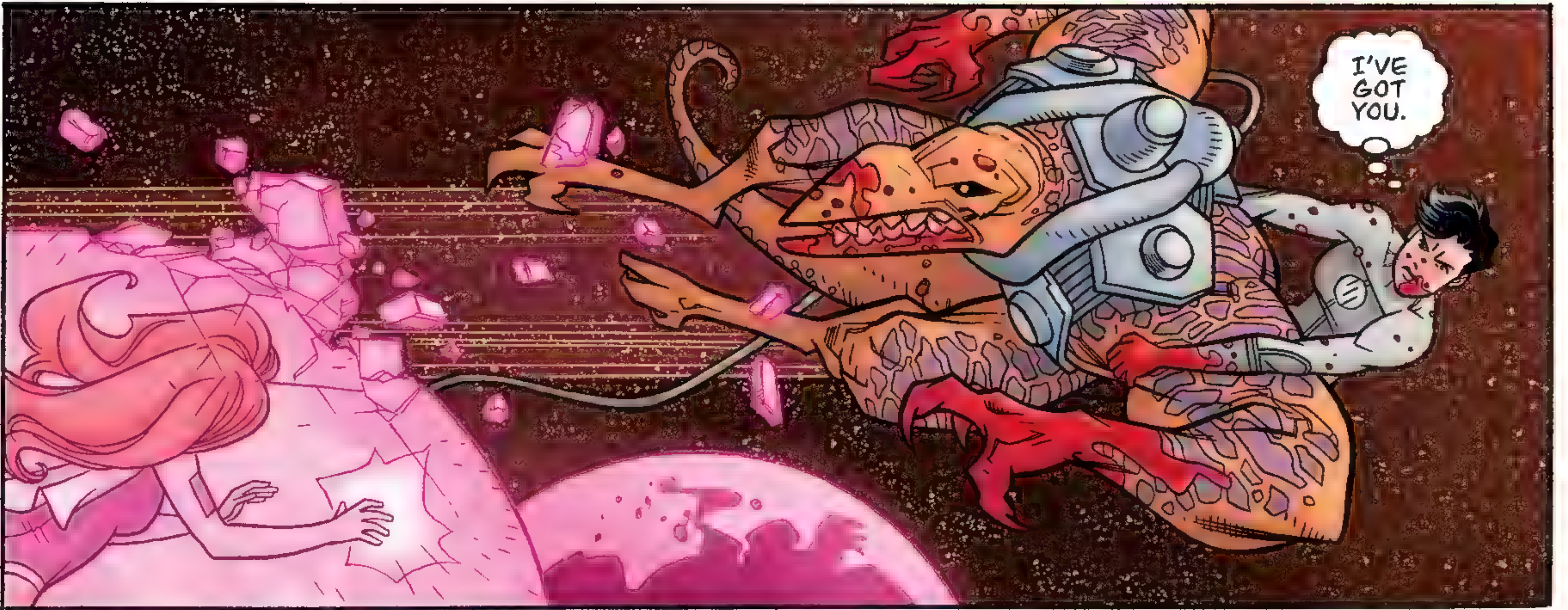


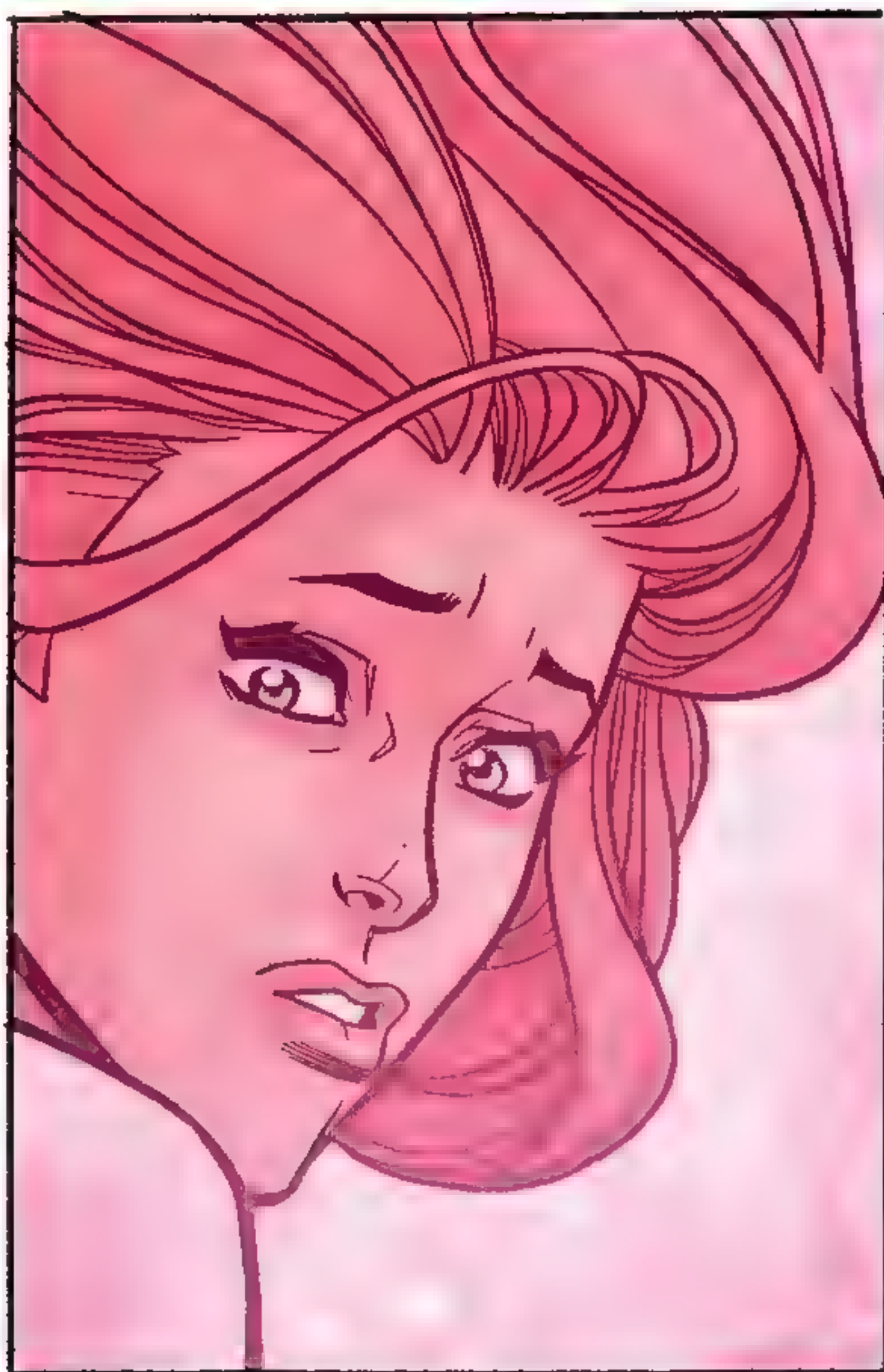
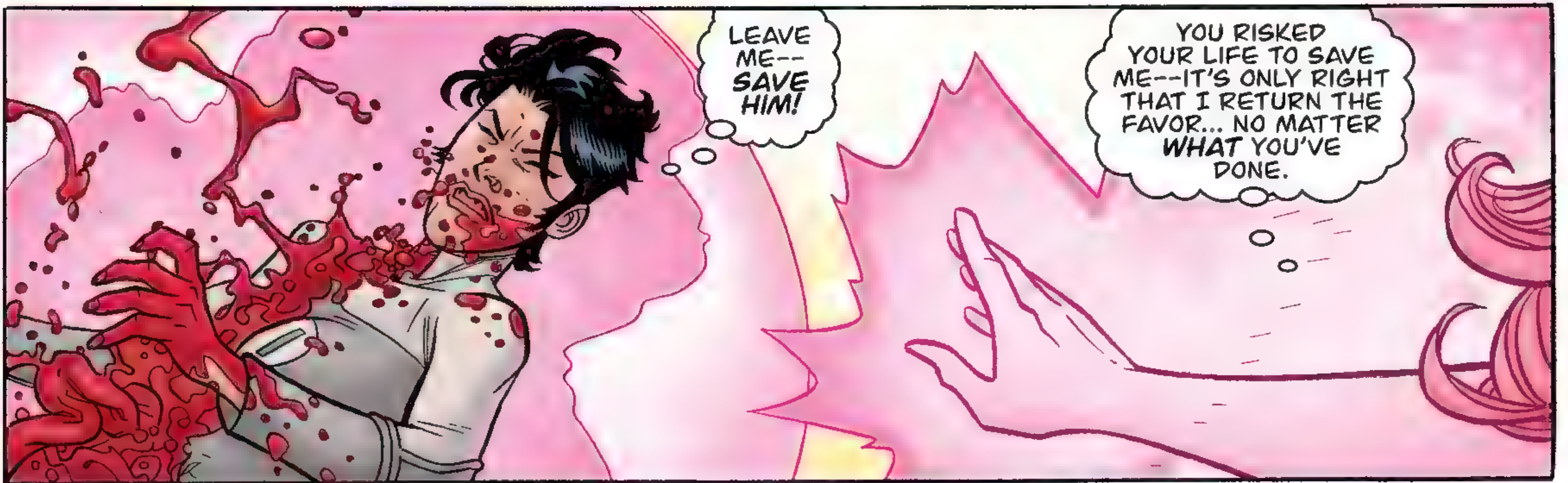








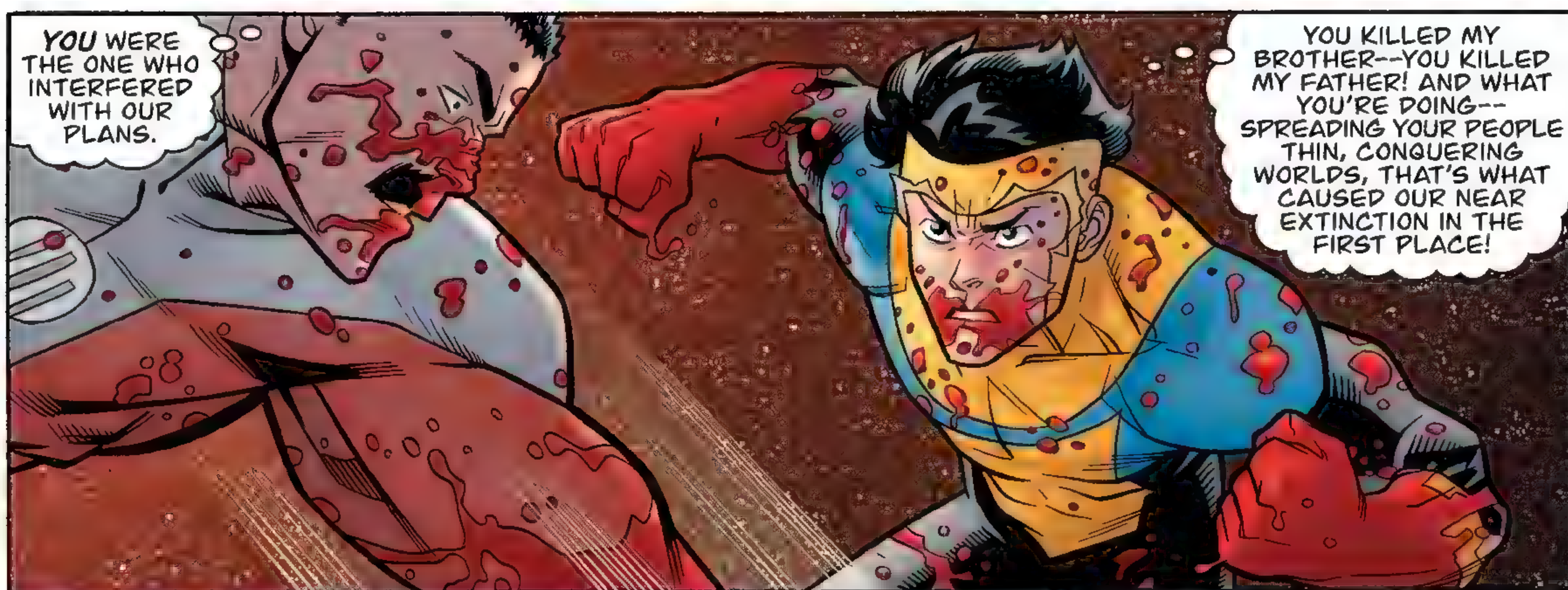






YOU'RE A MADMAN!
YOU WERE CHARGED
WITH SAFEGUARDING
OUR PEOPLE--
ENSURING OUR VERY
EXISTENCE!

DON'T YOU
SEE WHAT
YOU'RE DOING
COULD BRING
AN END TO
US ALL?



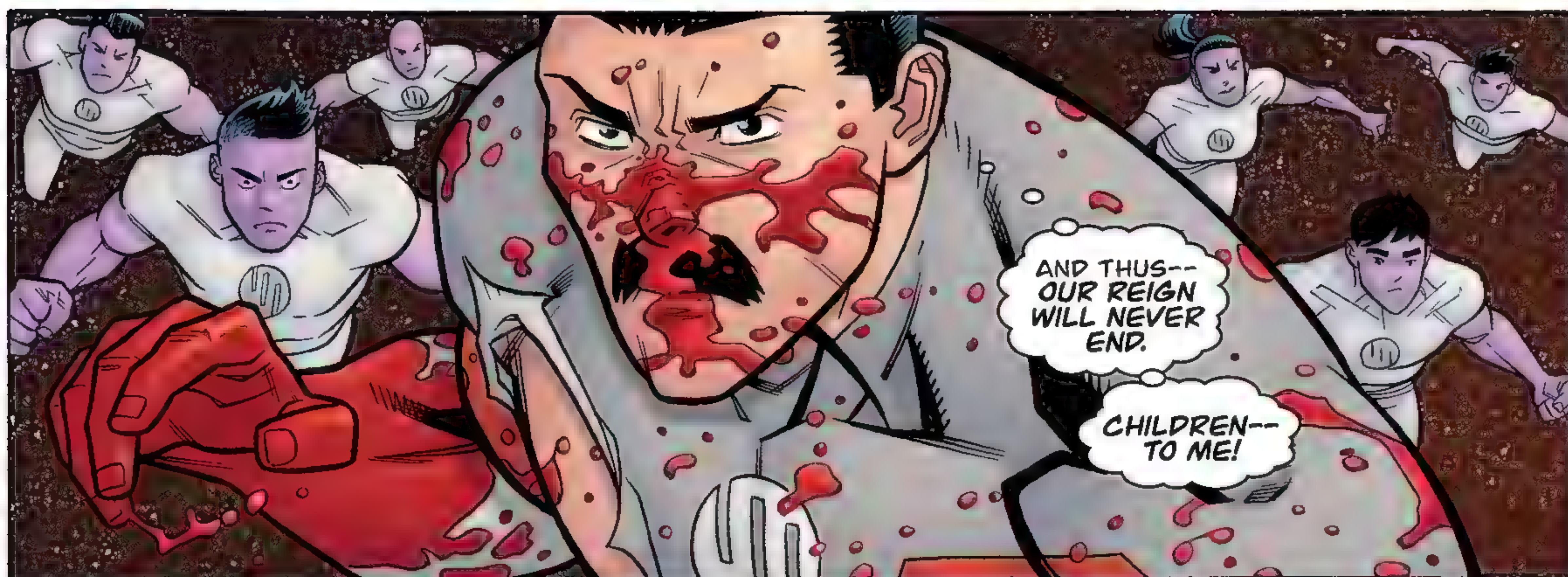
YOU WERE
THE ONE WHO
INTERFERED
WITH OUR
PLANS.

YOU KILLED MY
BROTHER--YOU KILLED
MY FATHER! AND WHAT
YOU'RE DOING--
SPREADING YOUR PEOPLE
THIN, CONQUERING
WORLDS, THAT'S WHAT
CAUSED OUR NEAR
EXTINCTION IN THE
FIRST PLACE!



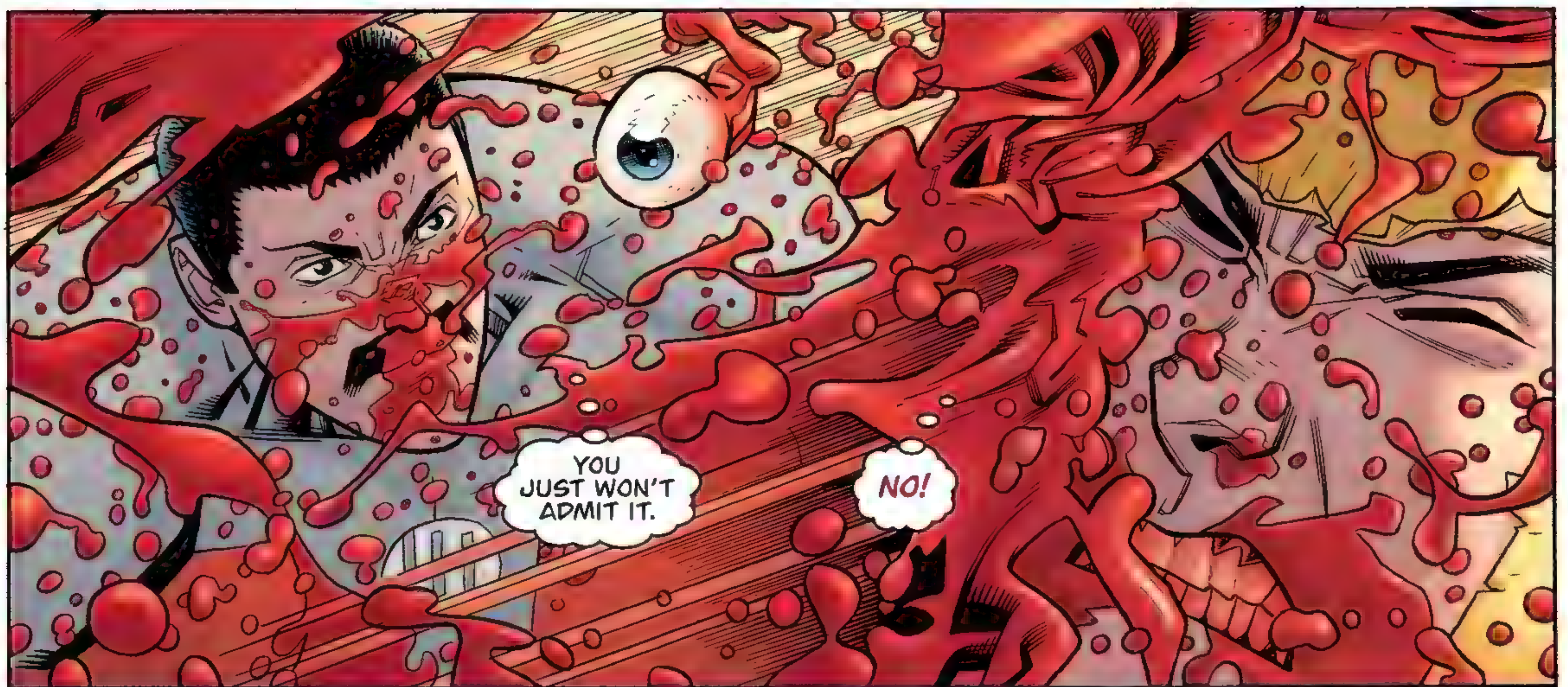
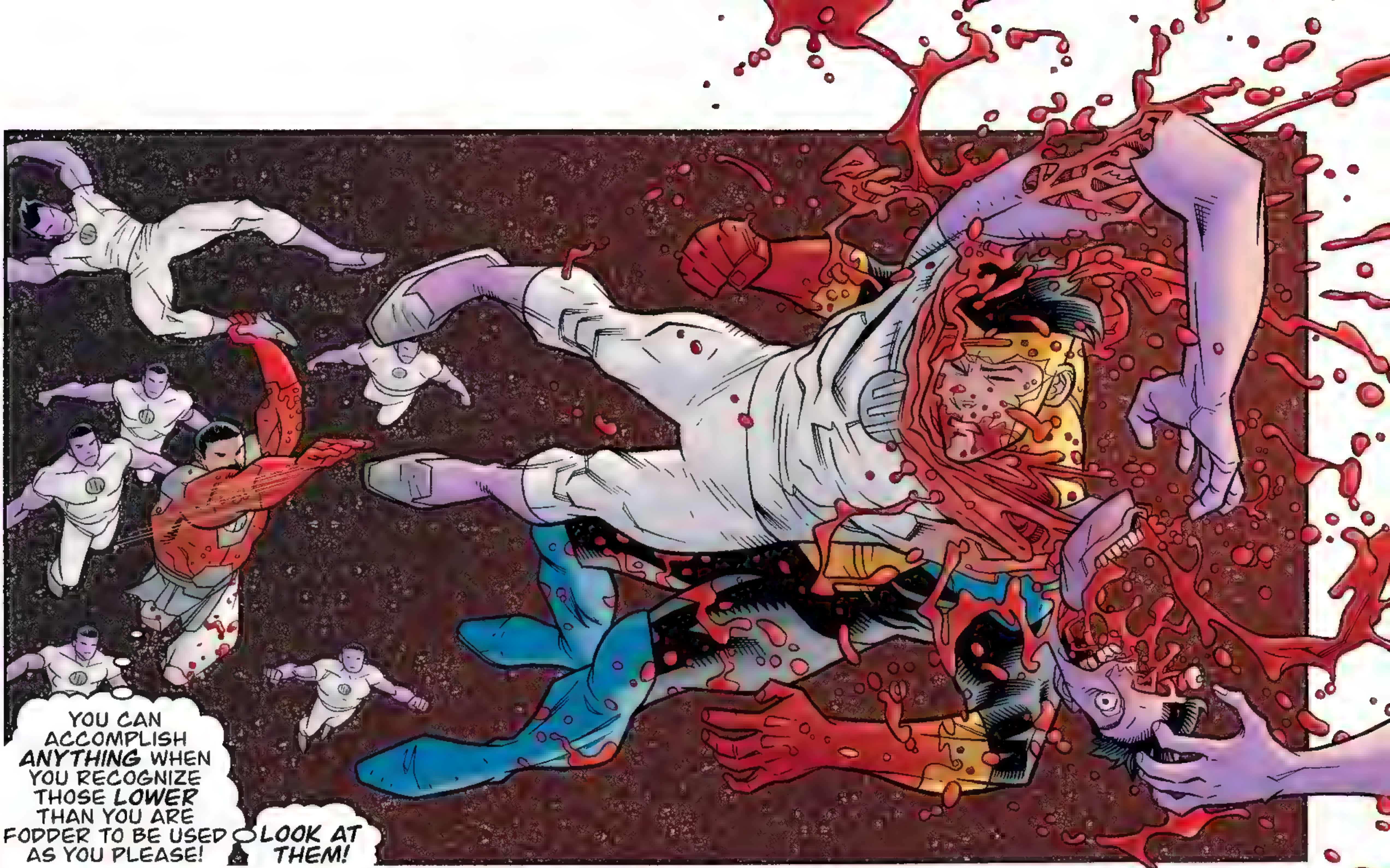
AFTER THE
PUREBRED
VILTRUMITES
TURNED ON ME--
I GAVE UP ALL
HOPE OF
RESTORING OUR
PEOPLE.

AS FAR AS THESE
HALF-BREEDS GO--
I CAN MAKE AN
ENDLESS SUPPLY. MY
VILTRUMITES ARE
DISPOSABLE.

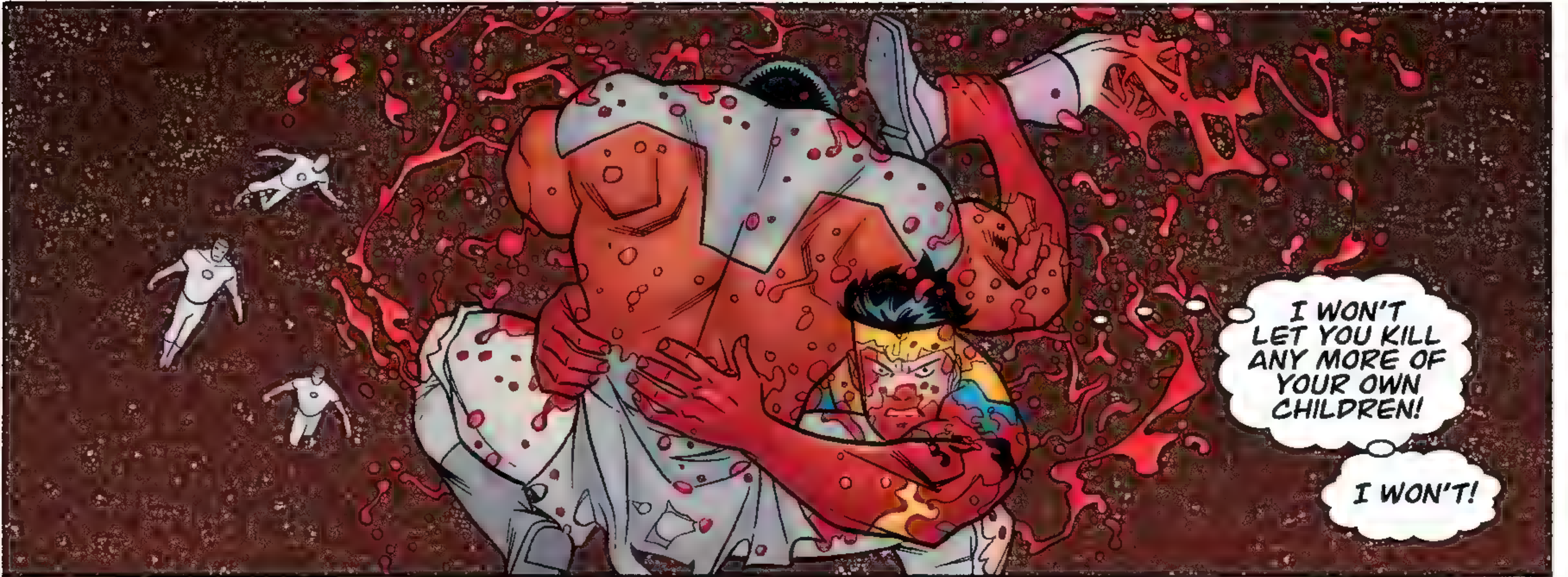


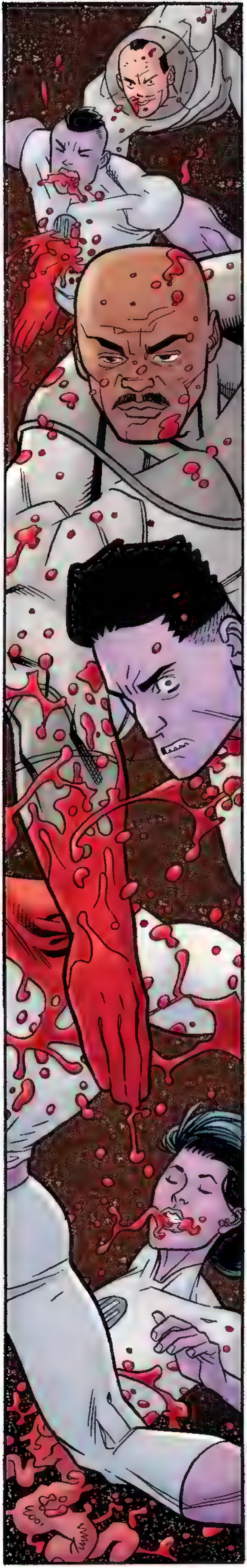
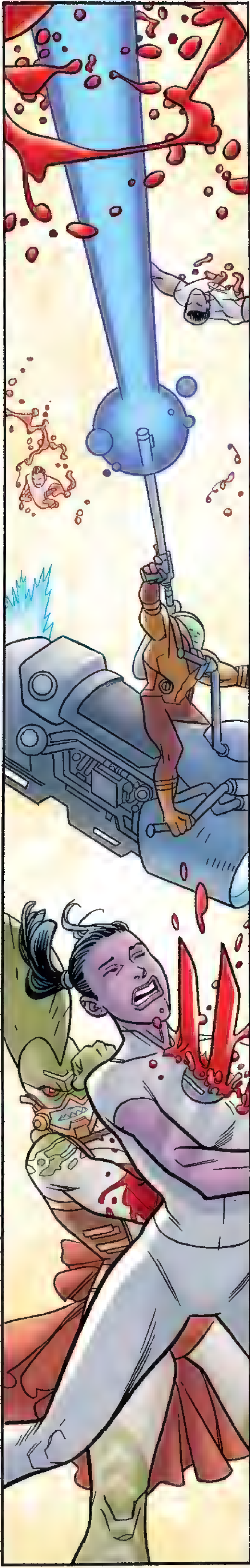
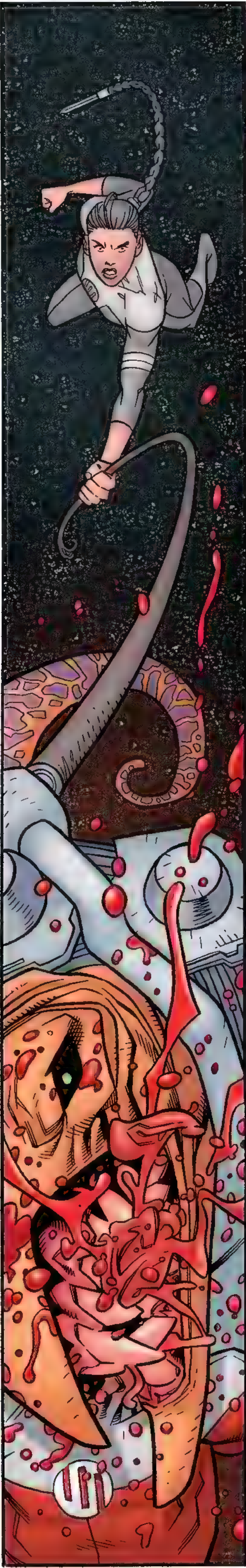
AND THUS--
OUR REIGN
WILL NEVER
END.

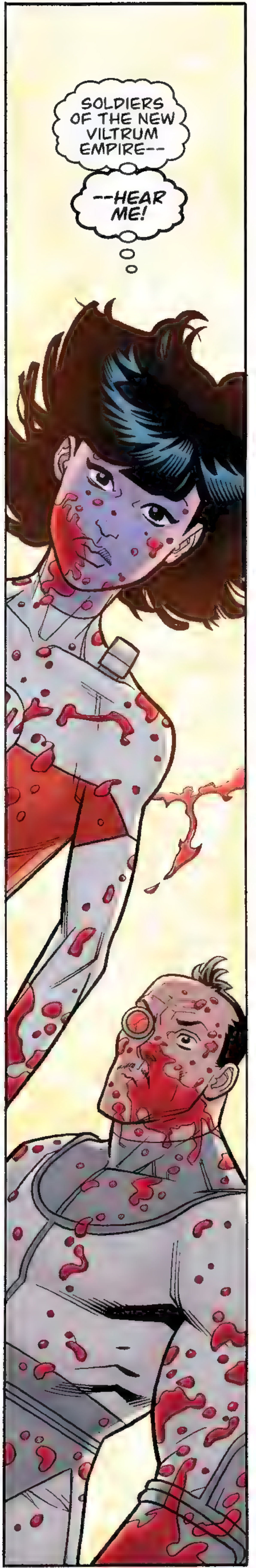
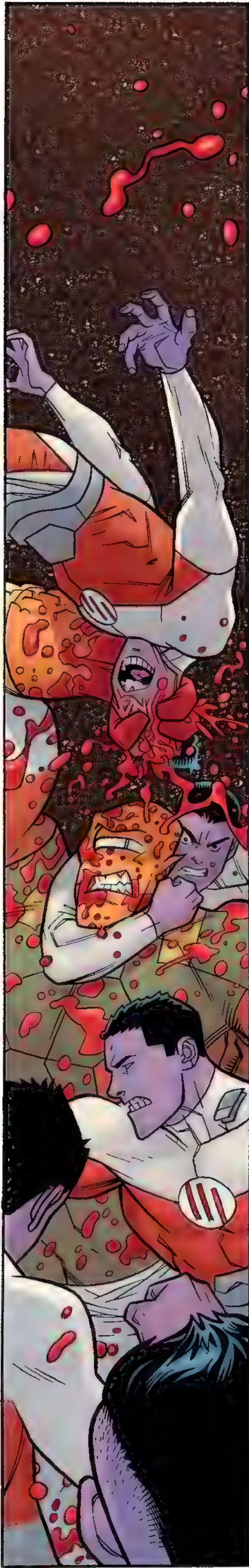
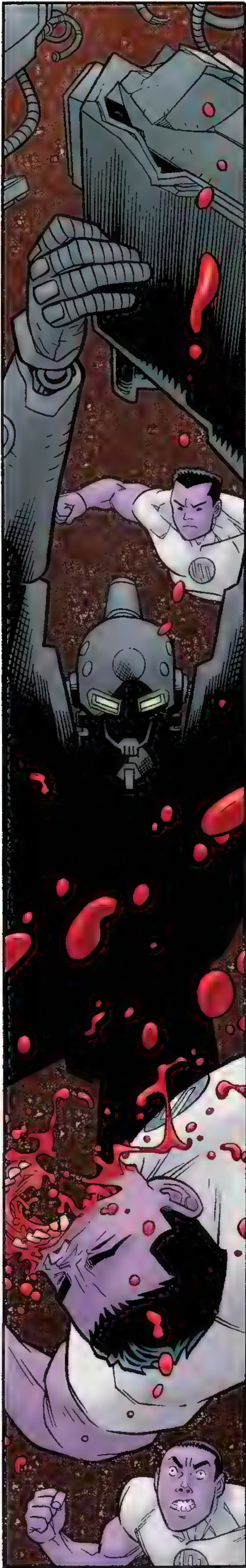
CHILDREN--
TO ME!

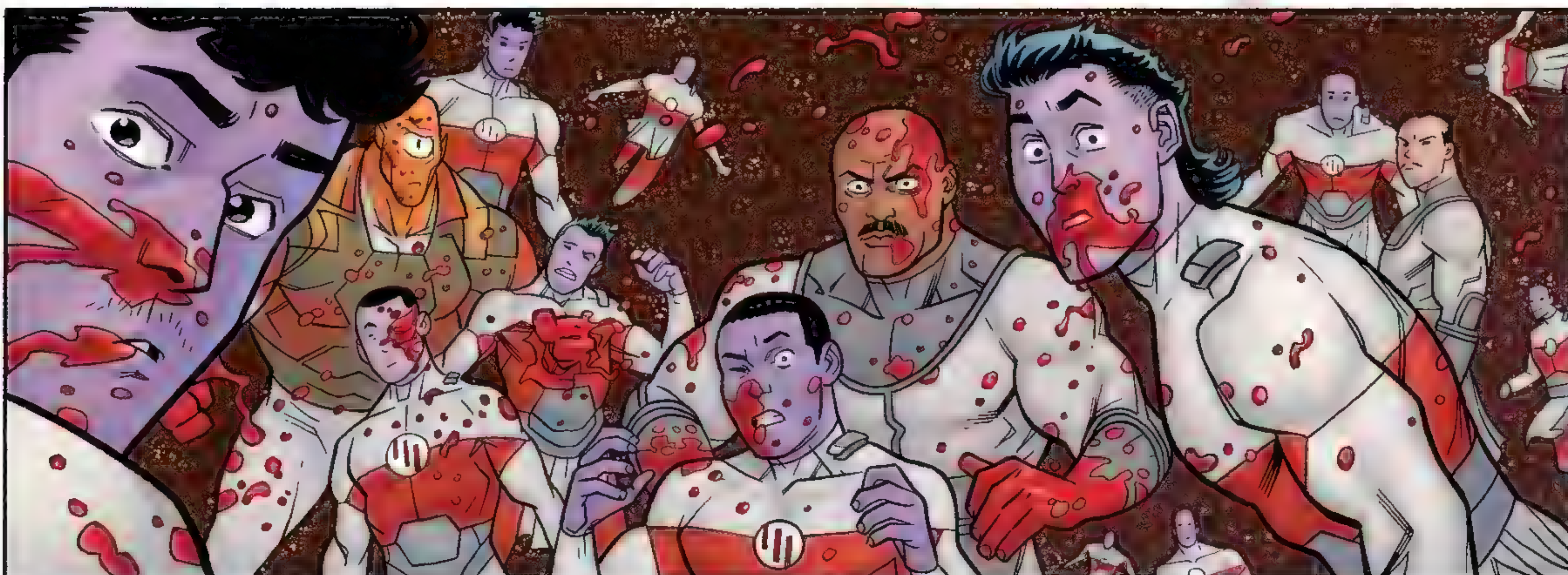


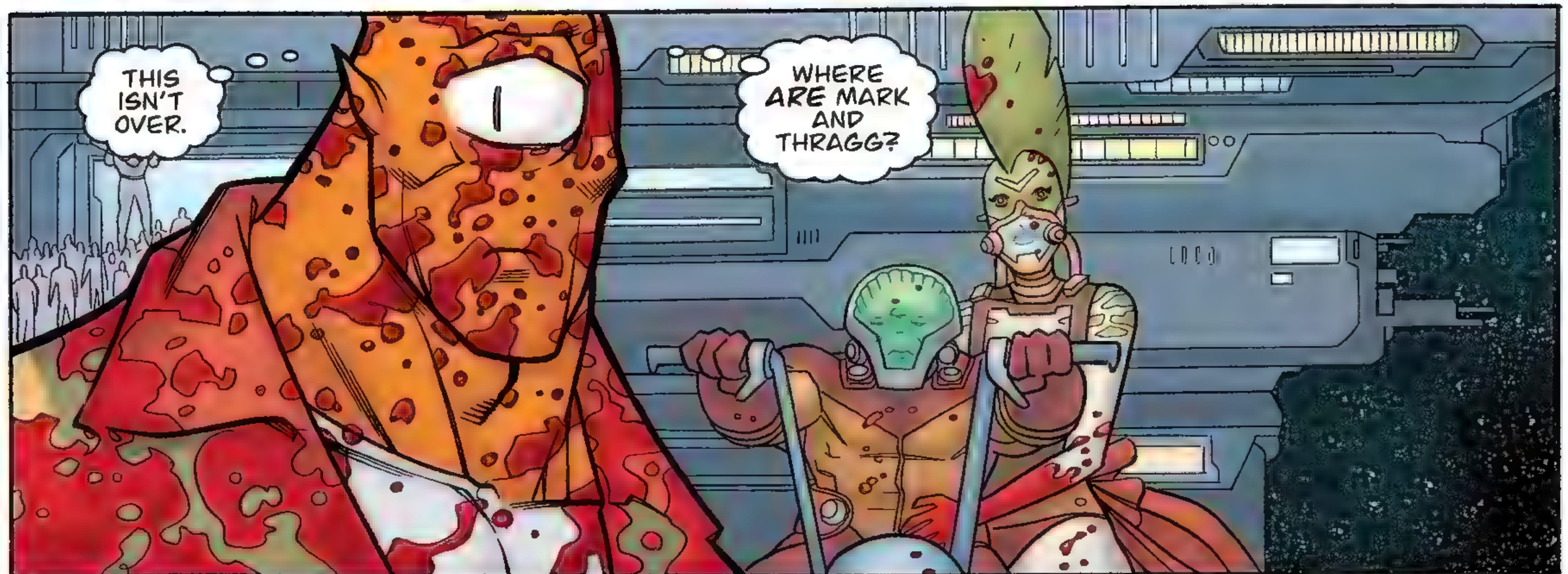
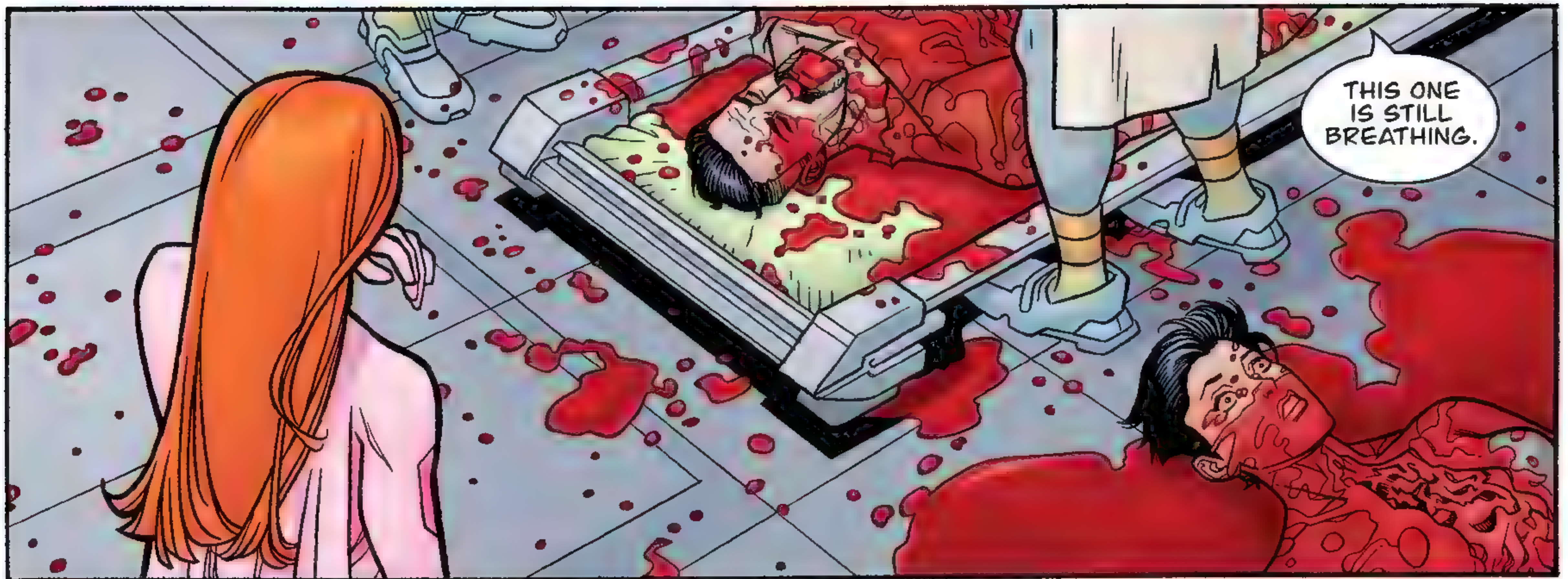
NO!









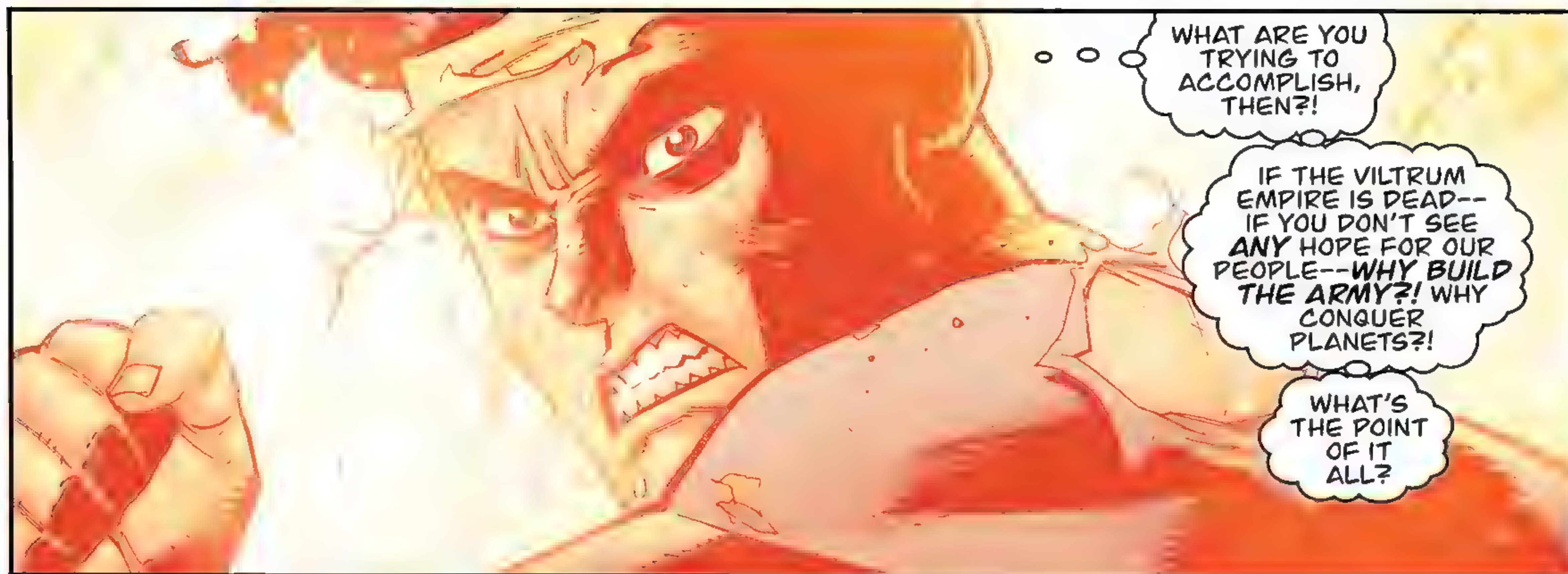






CHAPTER TWO





WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH, THEN?!

IF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE IS DEAD-- IF YOU DON'T SEE ANY HOPE FOR OUR PEOPLE--WHY BUILD THE ARMY?! WHY CONQUER PLANETS?!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF IT ALL?



ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

REVENGE.



YOU AND YOUR FATHER... CHOSEN, GIFTED WITH THE BLOOD OF ARGALL, DESTINED TO RULE THE EMPIRE... AFTER I DEVOTED MY ENTIRE LIFE TO SAFEGUARDING IT!

I'M SUPPOSED TO BOW TO THE SCUM WHO OBLITERATED OUR HOME PLANET?!

I'M EXPECTED TO STEP ASIDE WHILE YOU ASSUME COMMAND?!



NO.

I'LL SEE YOUR TRAITOROUS BLOODLINE ERASED FROM HISTORY!

I'LL--





I'LL LEAVE YOU TO **BURN** IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WISH. I HAVE MANY MORE OF THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT I'D LIKE TO **KILL** BEFORE THIS IS OVER.

I CAN'T ALLOW MY **INFERIOR** OFFSPRING TO HAVE ALL THE FUN.



NO!

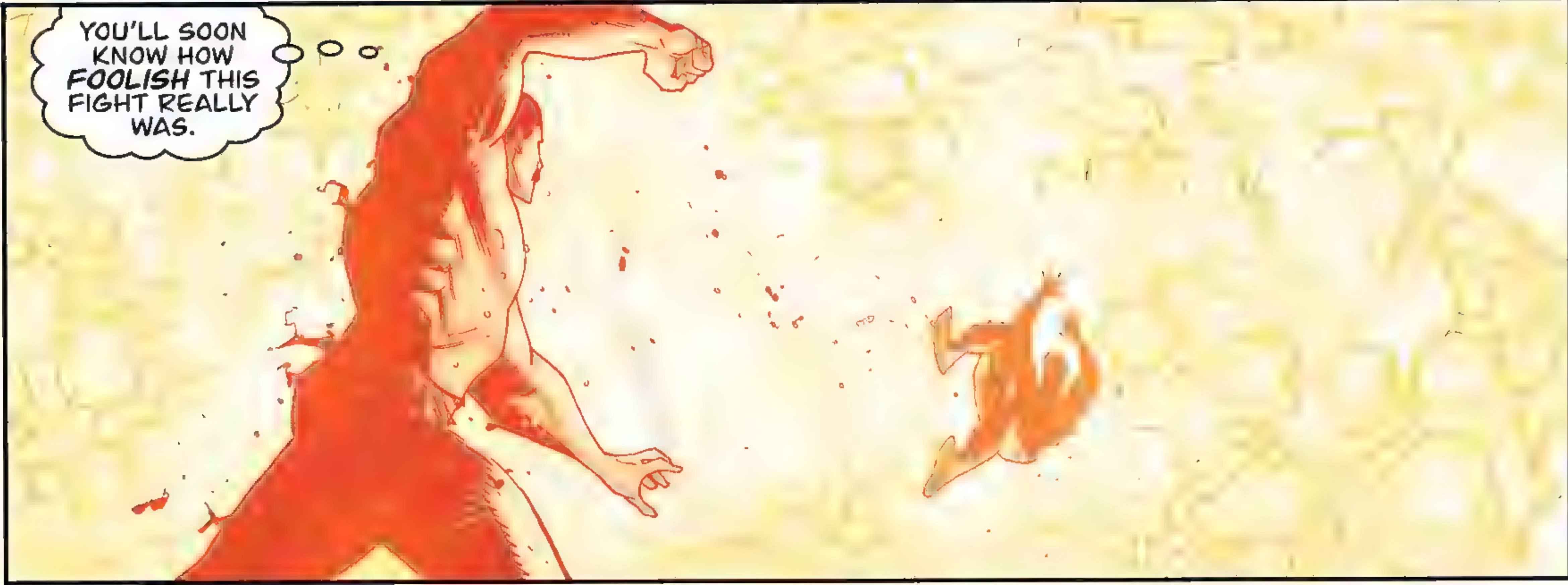


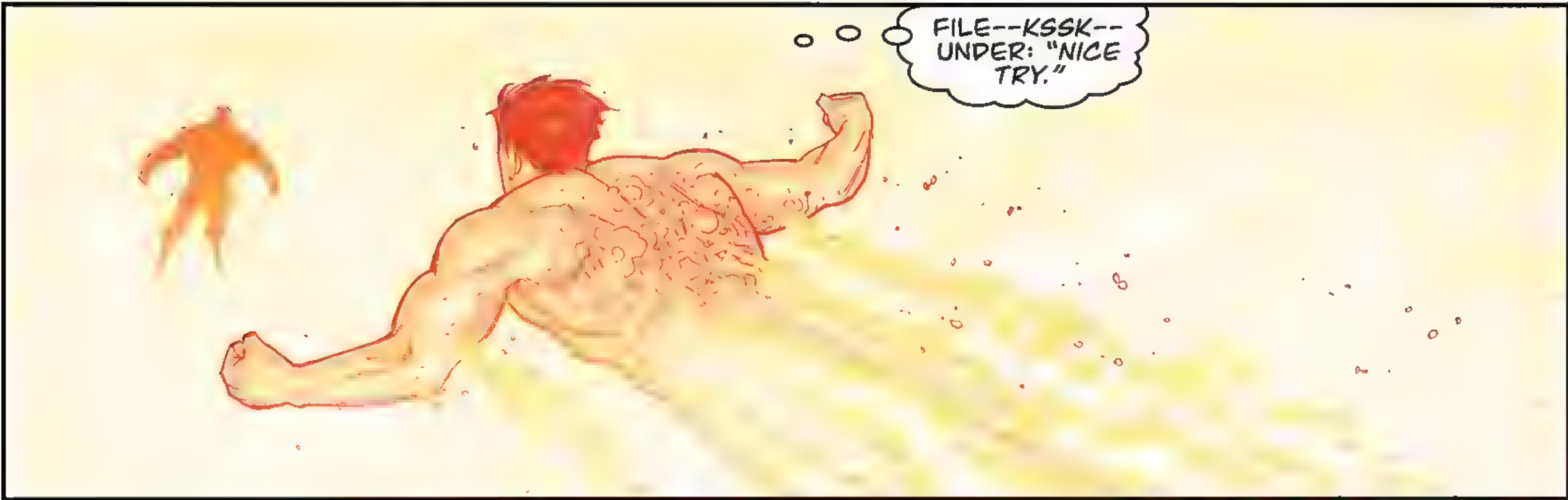
YOU DON'T LEAVE HERE ALIVE!



EVEN IF KILLING YOU KILLS ME-- I WON'T GIVE UP!

I ALWAYS WELCOME A **CHALLENGE**.





FILE--KSSK--
UNDER: "NICE
TRY."



NOW YOUR
TRANSMITTER IS
SCORCHED. IF YOU
HAVE ANY POIGNANT
LAST WORDS, I'LL
ONLY BE HEARING
EVERY OTHER
ONE.



WORDS--KSSK--
NOT--KSSK--
IMPORTANT!



I COULDN'T AGREE
MORE. I DON'T NEED TO HEAR
YOUR MISGUIDED PLATITUDES ON
HOW THINGS **SHOULD** BE OR
WHAT I **SHOULD** BE DOING.



THE ONLY
THING YOU NEED
TO KNOW IS
THAT YOU CAN'T
BE ALLOWED
TO LIVE.

YOU WERE
DESTINED TO
DIE FROM THE
MOMENT YOU
WERE--



OH,
HELL--





I WISH YOU
COULD HEAR
ME.

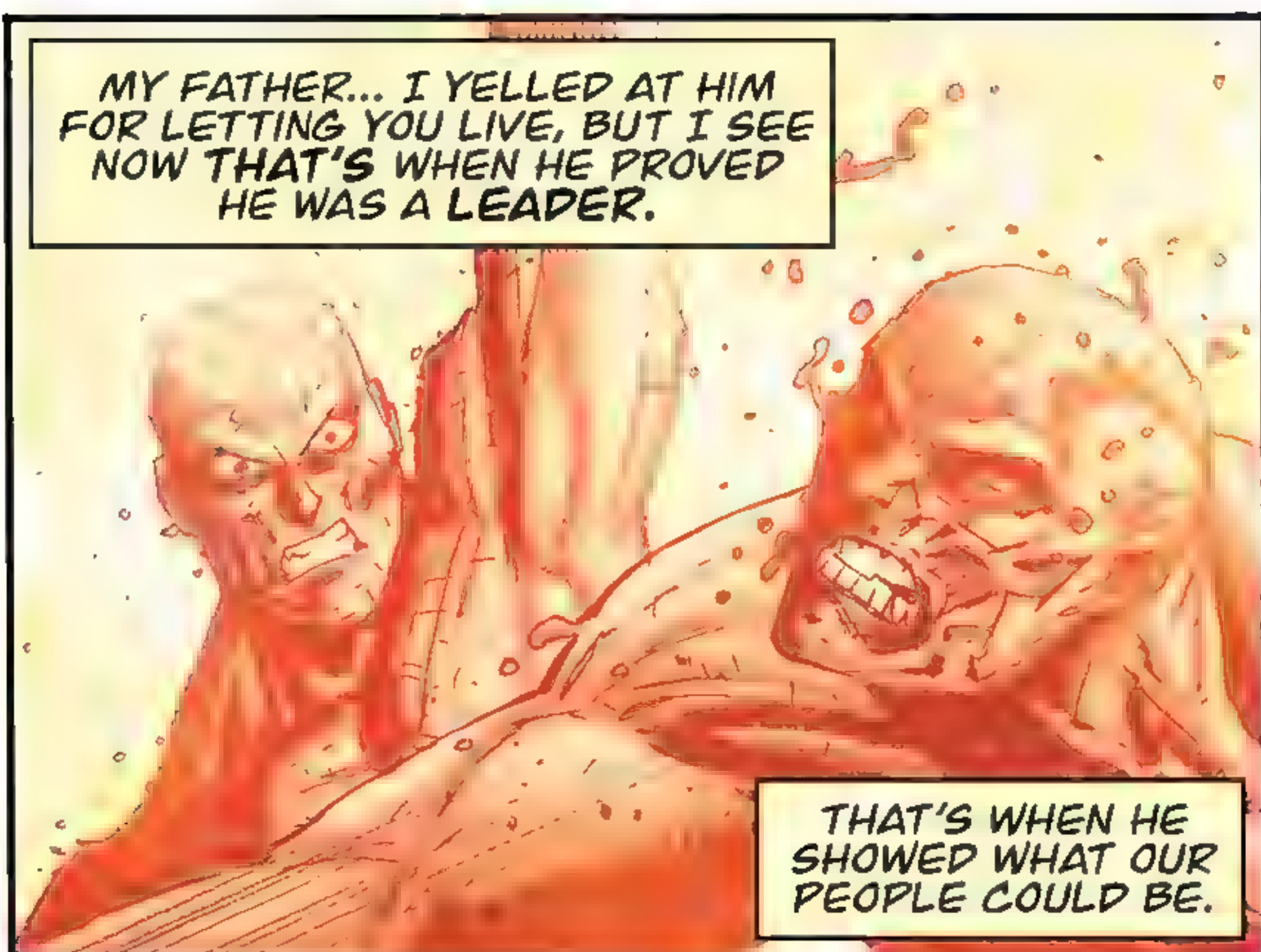
BECAUSE I JUST FIGURED
OUT WHY I'M GOING TO WIN
AND YOU'RE DEFINITELY
GOING TO LOSE.



YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR
REVENGE? SO YOU
CAN BE THE BEST?
SO YOU CAN LEAD?
YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR
NOTHING.

I'M FIGHTING FOR MY FAMILY,
MY PEOPLE... OUR PEOPLE,
YOUR PEOPLE--HELL, EVEN
YOUR ARMY THAT'S
FIGHTING AGAINST ME.

I WANT ALL OF THIS
TO STOP--I WANT
ALL OF US TO LIVE.



MY FATHER... I YELLED AT HIM
FOR LETTING YOU LIVE, BUT I SEE
NOW THAT'S WHEN HE PROVED
HE WAS A LEADER.

THAT'S WHEN HE
SHOWED WHAT OUR
PEOPLE COULD BE.

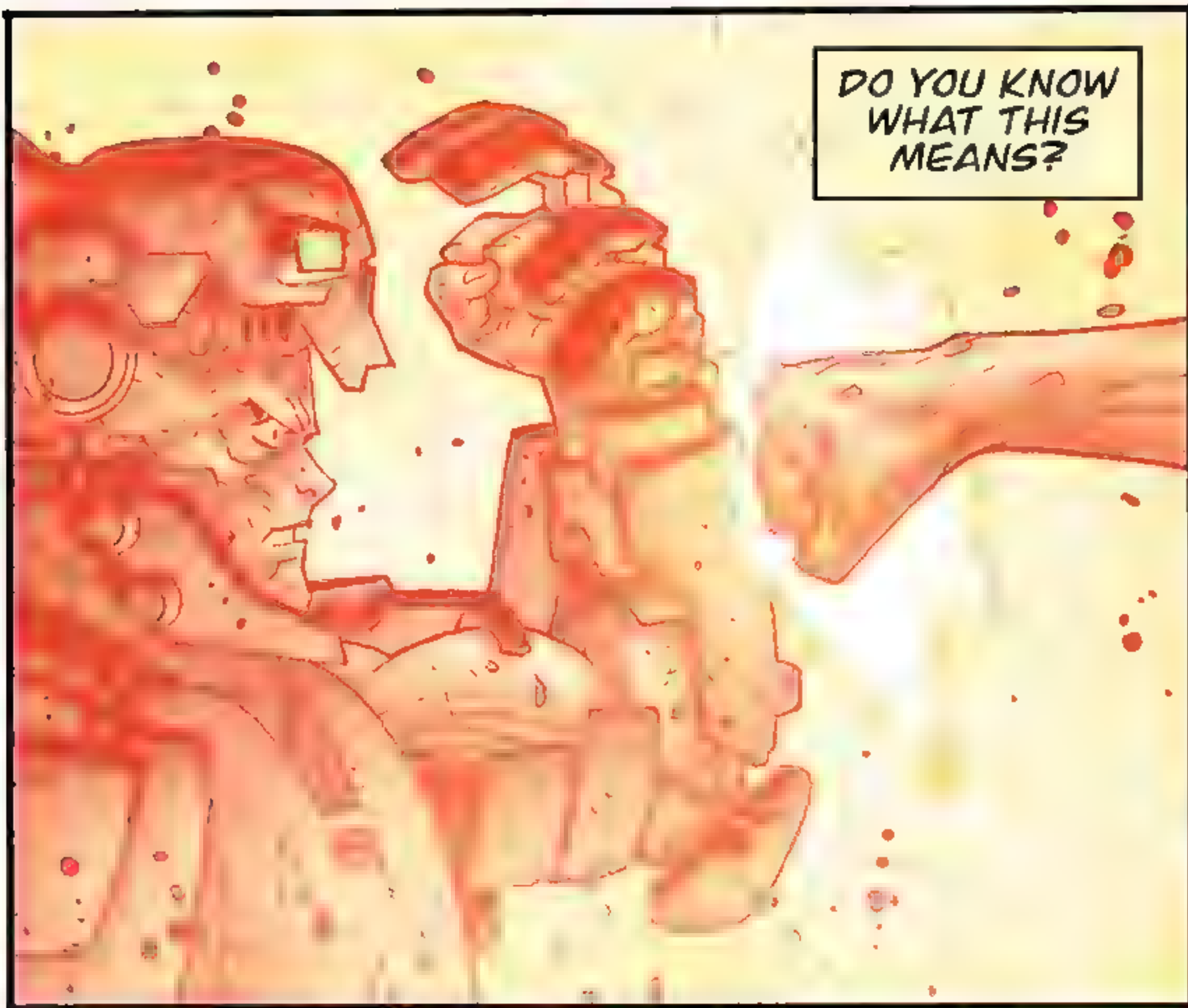


YOU... YOU SORRY SACK
OF SHIT. YOU NEVER
SAW OUR POTENTIAL.



YOU--

OH, GOD...



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS
MEANS?



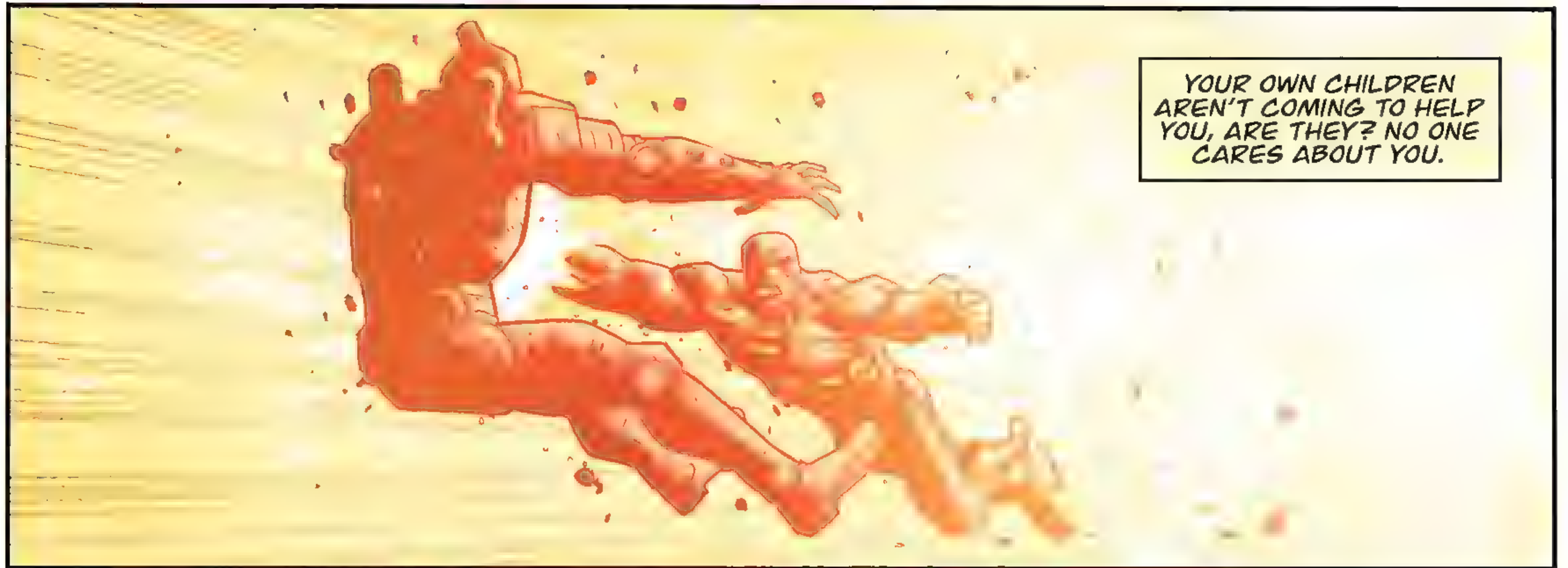
DO YOU
GET IT?



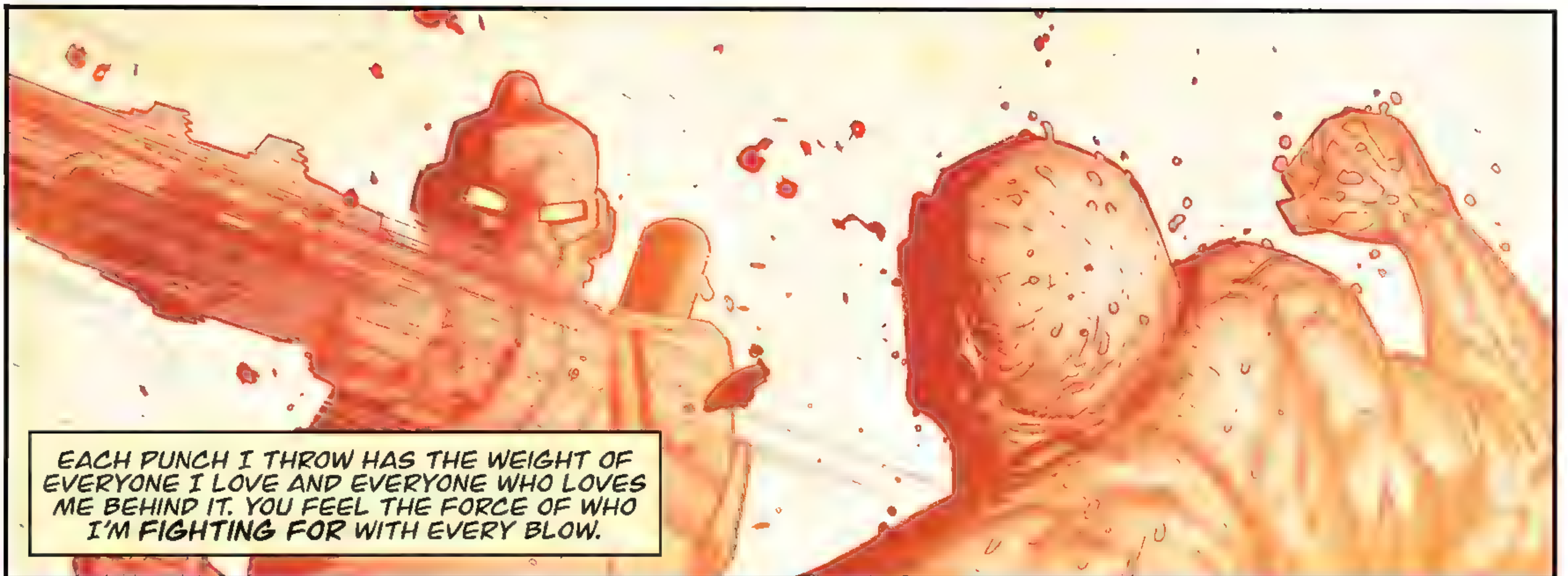
MY ENEMY HAS SENT HIS
OUTERMOST PROTECTIVE
SHELL TO HELP ME.

I ONLY WISH I
KNEW HOW TO USE
THIS THING--
IT HAS WEAPONS
THAT COULD HURT
EVEN YOU. STILL,
THIS WILL PROTECT
ME FOR A FEW
MOMENTS BEFORE
IT COMPLETELY
MELTS.

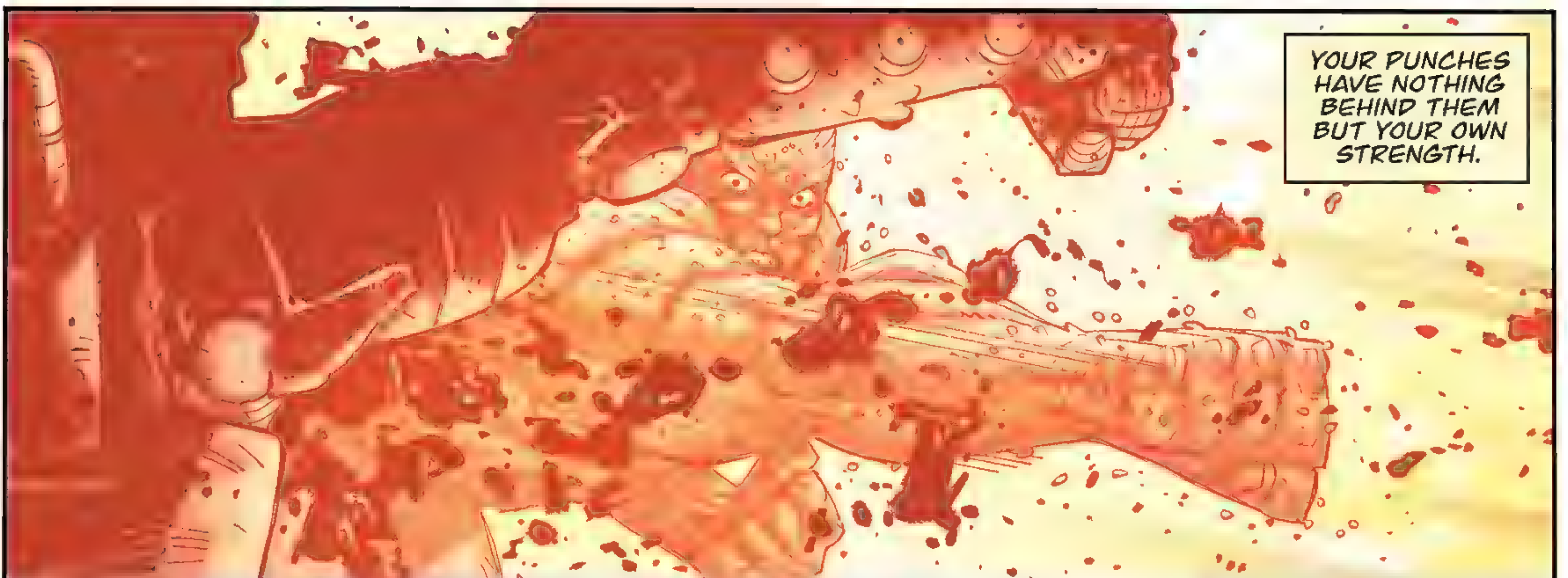
WHERE IS
YOUR HELP?



YOUR OWN CHILDREN
AREN'T COMING TO HELP
YOU, ARE THEY? NO ONE
CARES ABOUT YOU.



EACH PUNCH I THROW HAS THE WEIGHT OF
EVERYONE I LOVE AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES
ME BEHIND IT. YOU FEEL THE FORCE OF WHO
I'M FIGHTING FOR WITH EVERY BLOW.



YOUR PUNCHES
HAVE NOTHING
BEHIND THEM
BUT YOUR OWN
STRENGTH.



BECAUSE YOU'RE
A VILTRUMITE
WHO CLINGS TO
THE OLD WAYS.

YOU VALUE AND
RESPECT ONLY
STRENGTH. YOU FEEL
ONLY THE STRONG
DESERVE TO LIVE.

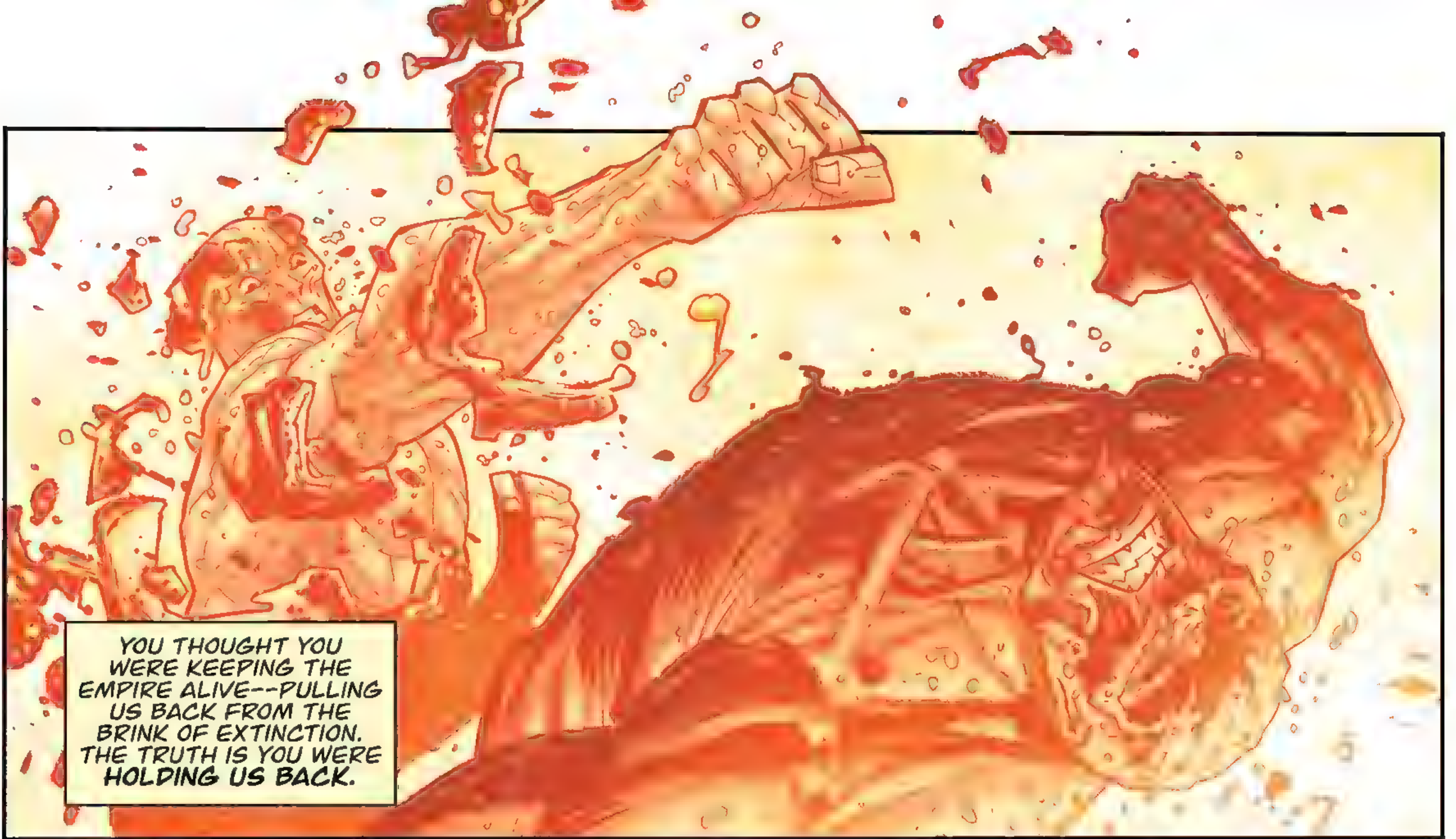
YOU CLING TO
PRACTICES THAT
PUSHED OUR PEOPLE
TO THE BRINK OF
EXTINCTION.

YOU SEE US AS
PEOPLE LIVING ONLY
FOR CONQUEST,
MEASURED ONLY BY
THE SIZE OF OUR
EMPIRE.

NO ROOM FOR PEACE.

NO ROOM FOR COMPASSION.

NO ROOM FOR LOVE.



YOU THOUGHT YOU
WERE KEEPING THE
EMPIRE ALIVE--PULLING
US BACK FROM THE
BRINK OF EXTINCTION.
THE TRUTH IS YOU WERE
HOLDING US BACK.



UNDER YOUR
LEADERSHIP THE
VILTRUMITES STOOD
FOR NOTHING...



...FOUGHT FOR
NOTHING.

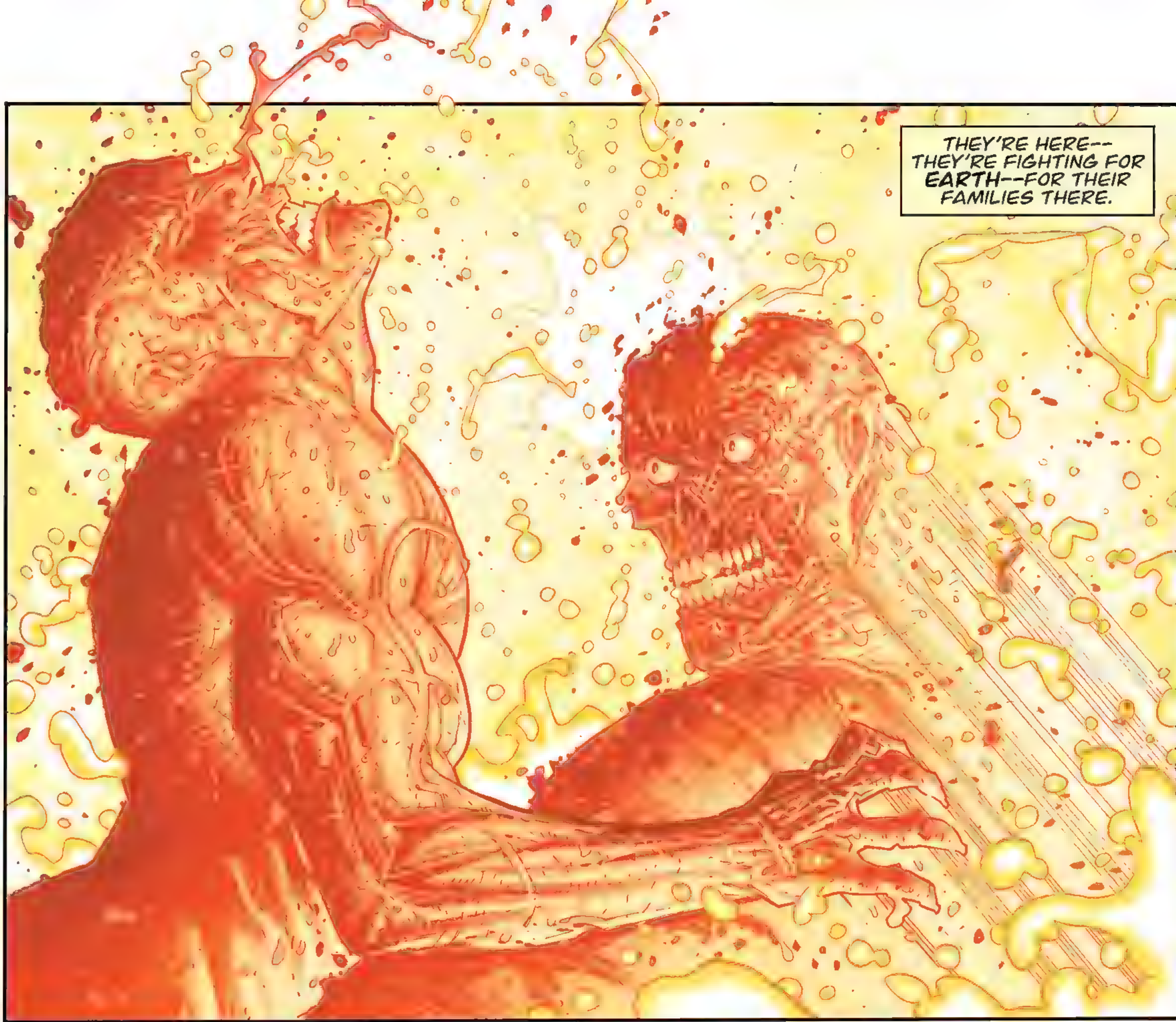


JUST LIKE YOU.



LOOK AT WHAT THEY BECAME UNDER
MY FATHER'S LEADERSHIP. LOOK AT
HOW THEY TRANSFORMED.

YOU CAN'T SEE IT... YOU
CAN'T ALLOW YOURSELF
TO SEE IT. BUT IT'S THERE.



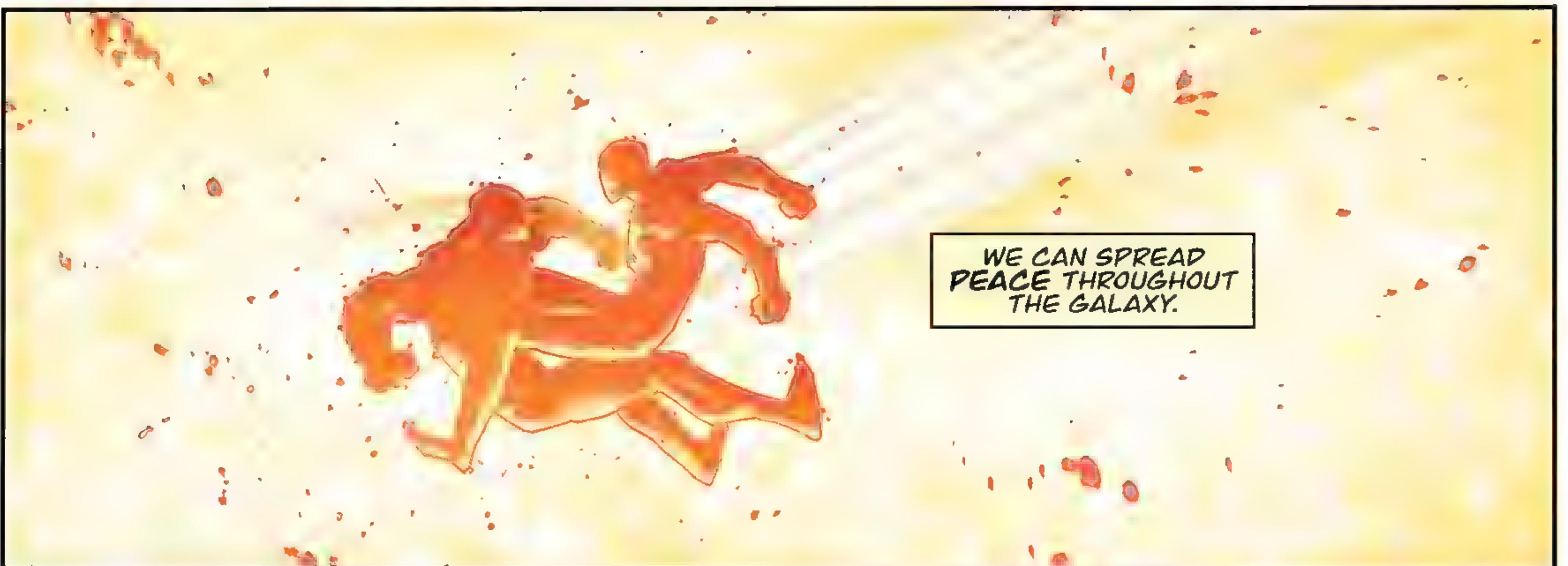
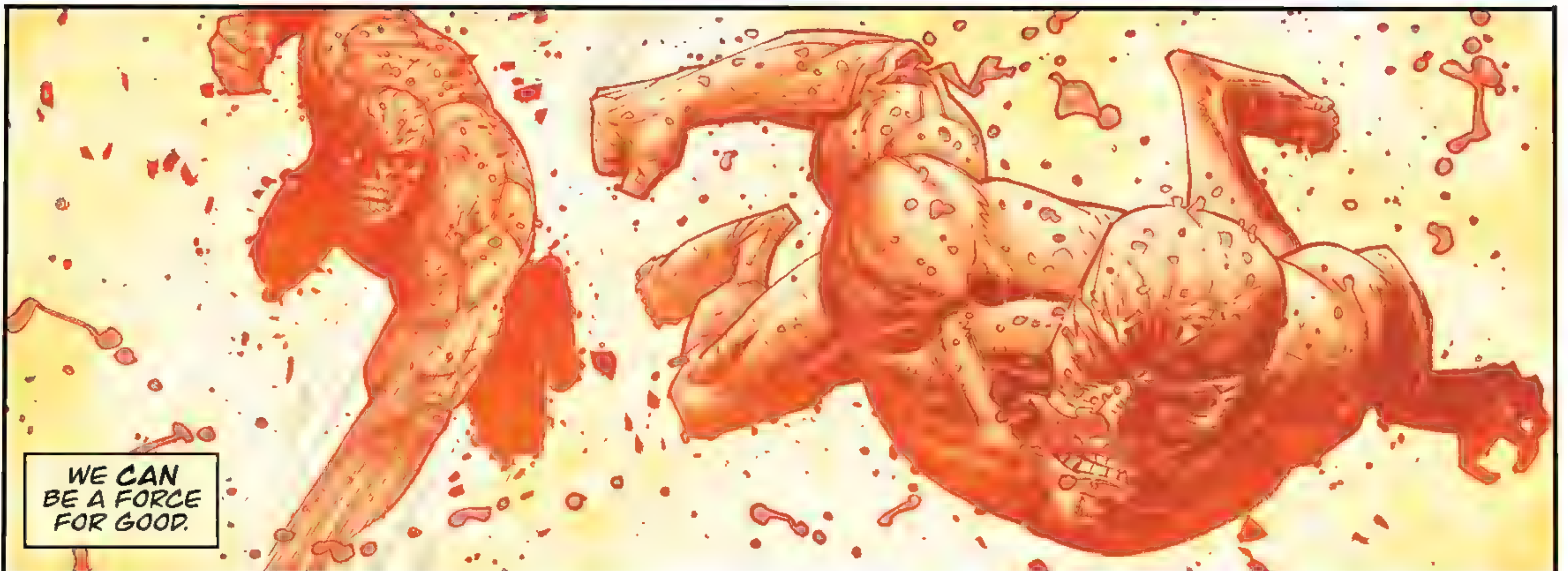
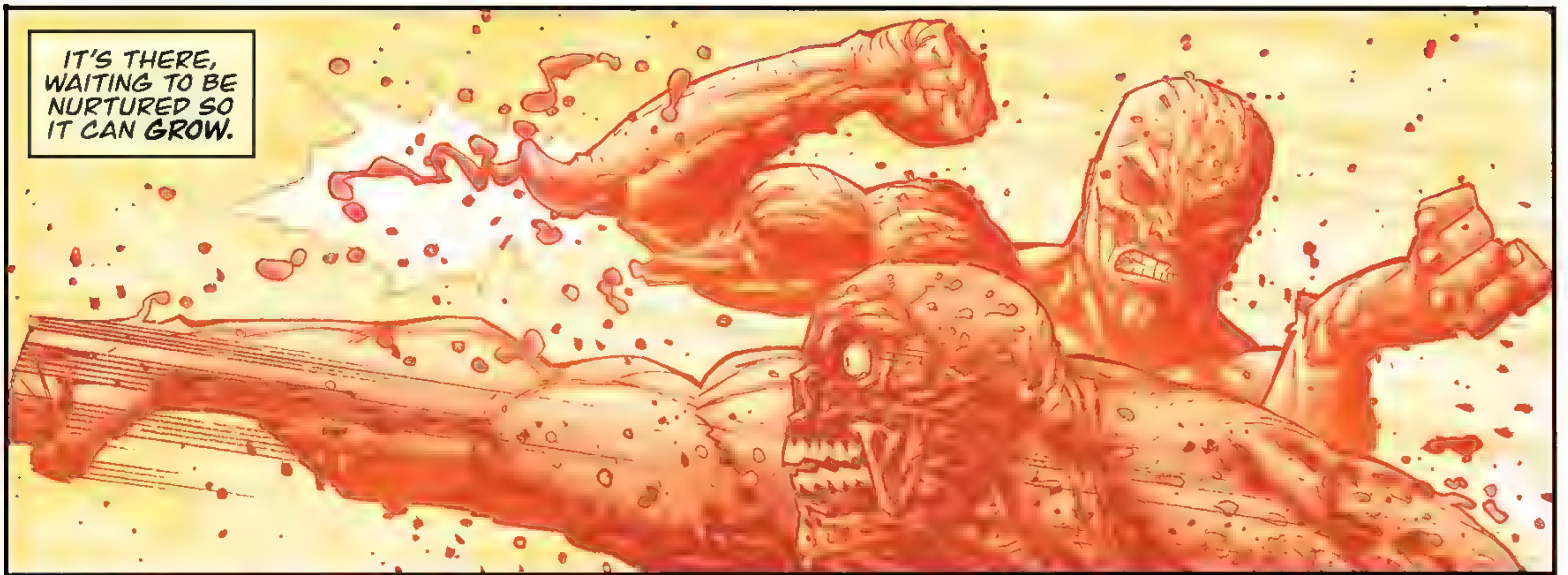
THEY'RE HERE--
THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR
EARTH--FOR THEIR
FAMILIES THERE.



IT ISN'T A HUGE SHIFT, BUT
IT'S THERE. IT SHOWS THE
POTENTIAL OF WHAT THE
VILTRUM EMPIRE CAN BE.



IT PROVES THERE WAS A
COMPASSION IN OUR PEOPLE...
ALWAYS THERE BENEATH THE
SURFACE, BURIED UNDER ALL
THAT STRENGTH AND FURY.



WE CAN BE HAPPY.





LIKE I SAID... I WISH YOU
COULD HEAR ME. BUT
NOW YOU'RE DEAD, AND
I'LL SOON FOLLOW.

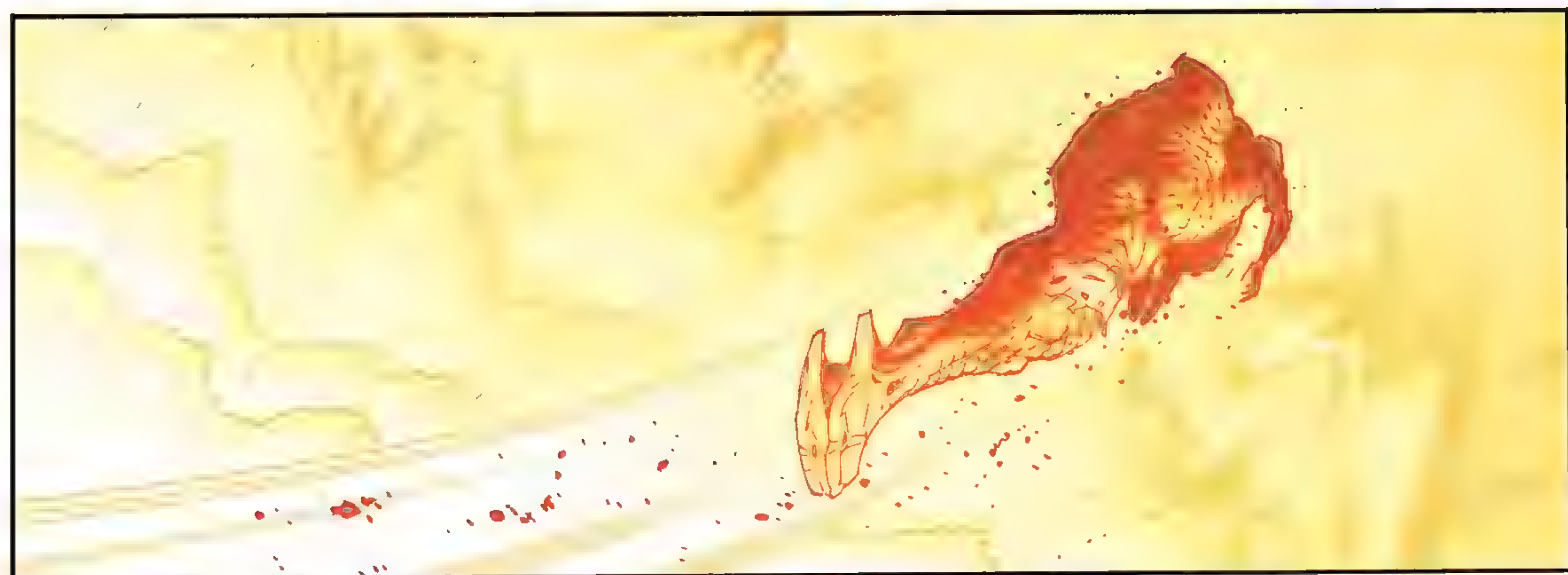
MY MIND IS RACING...
THINKING OF THE
POTENTIAL FOR WHAT
WE COULD ACHIEVE.

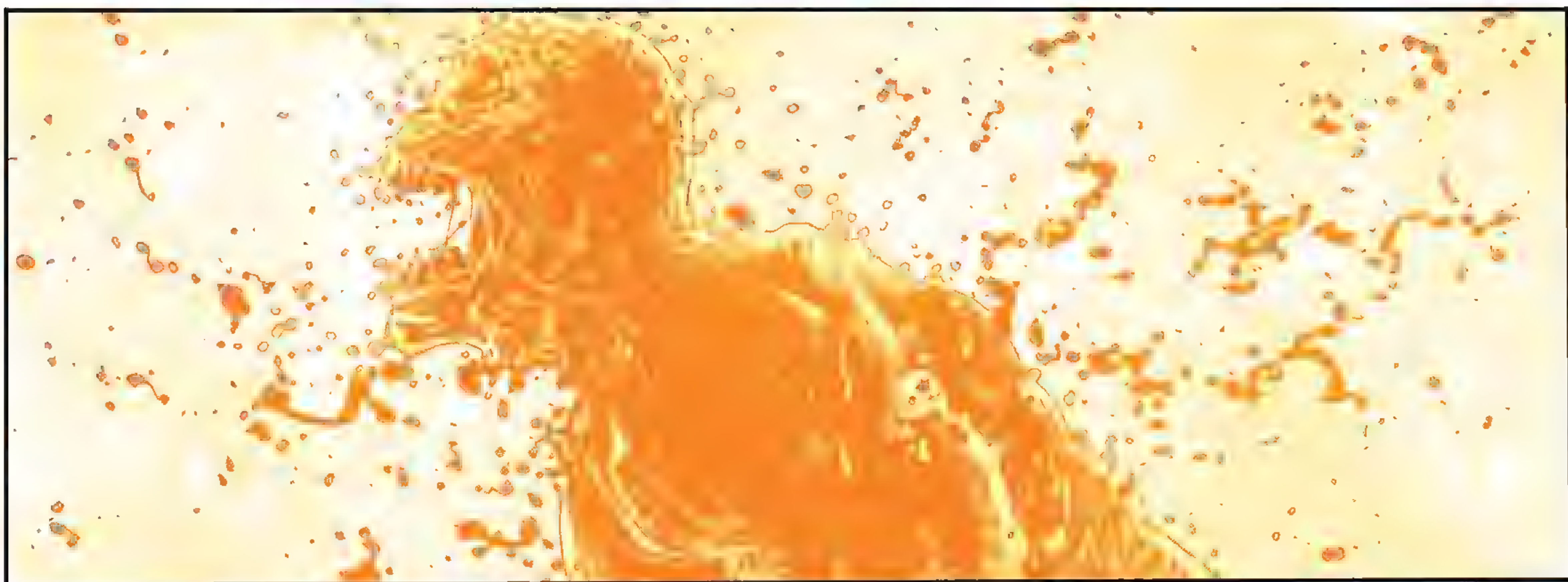
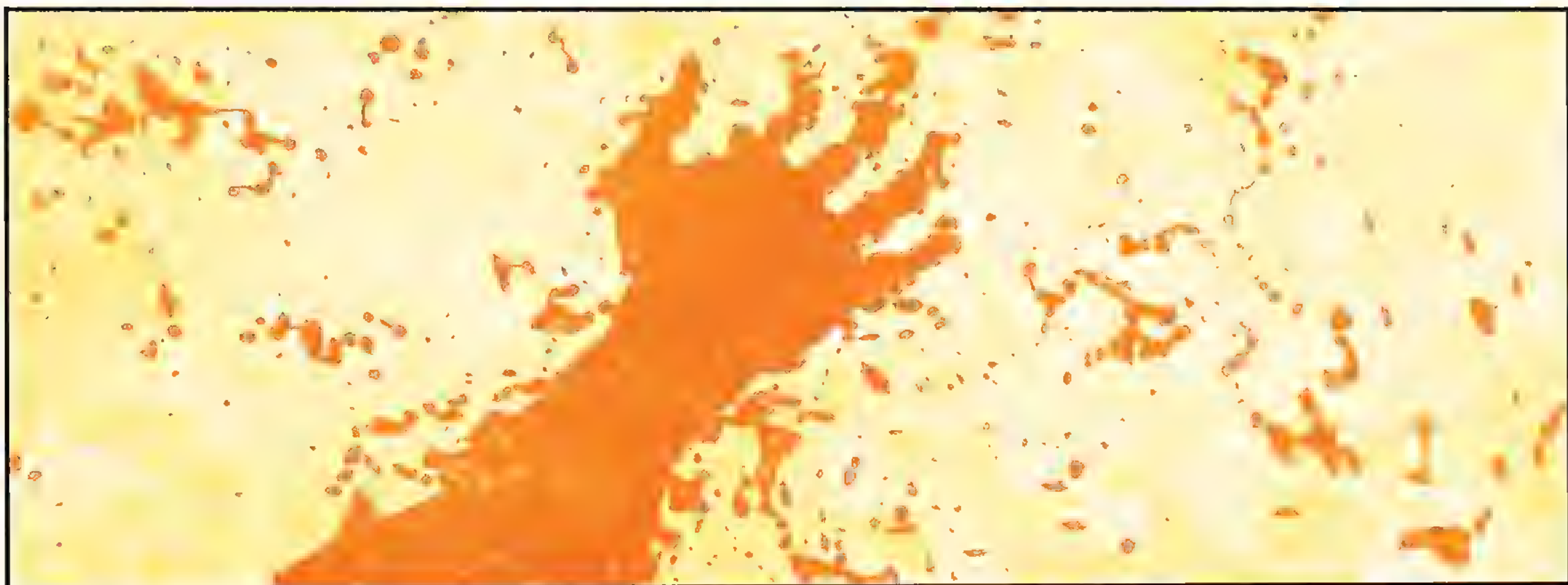


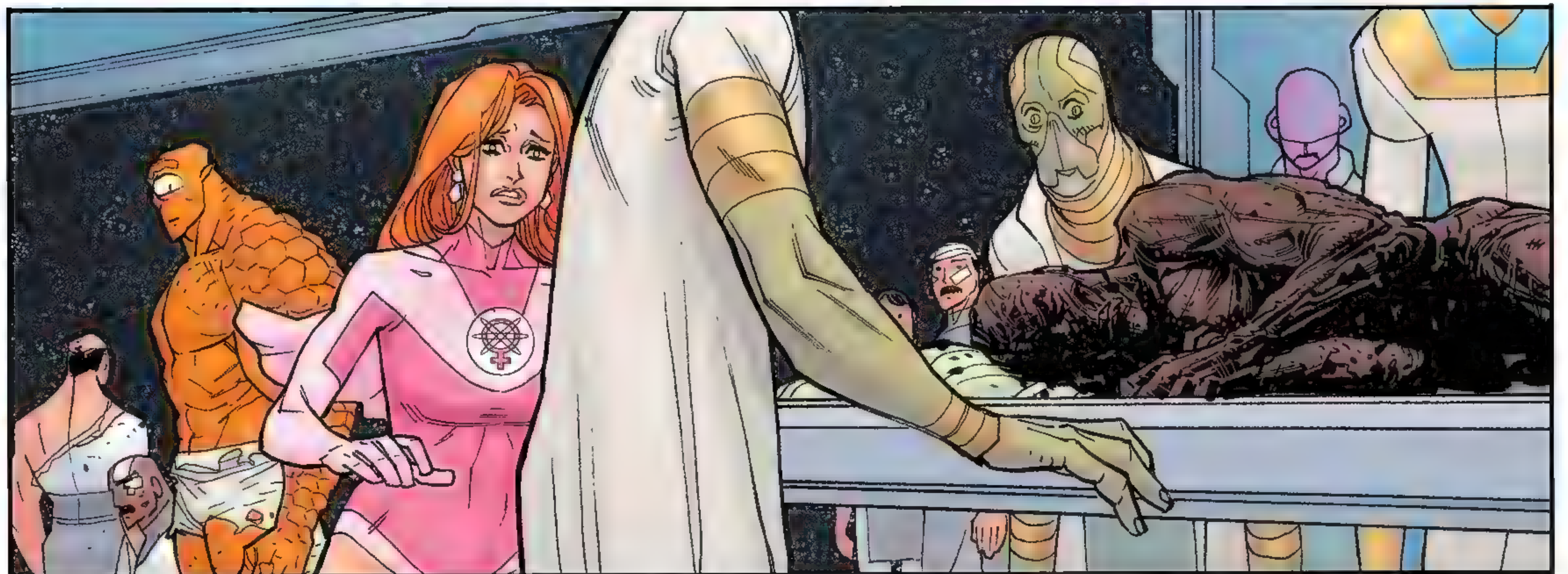
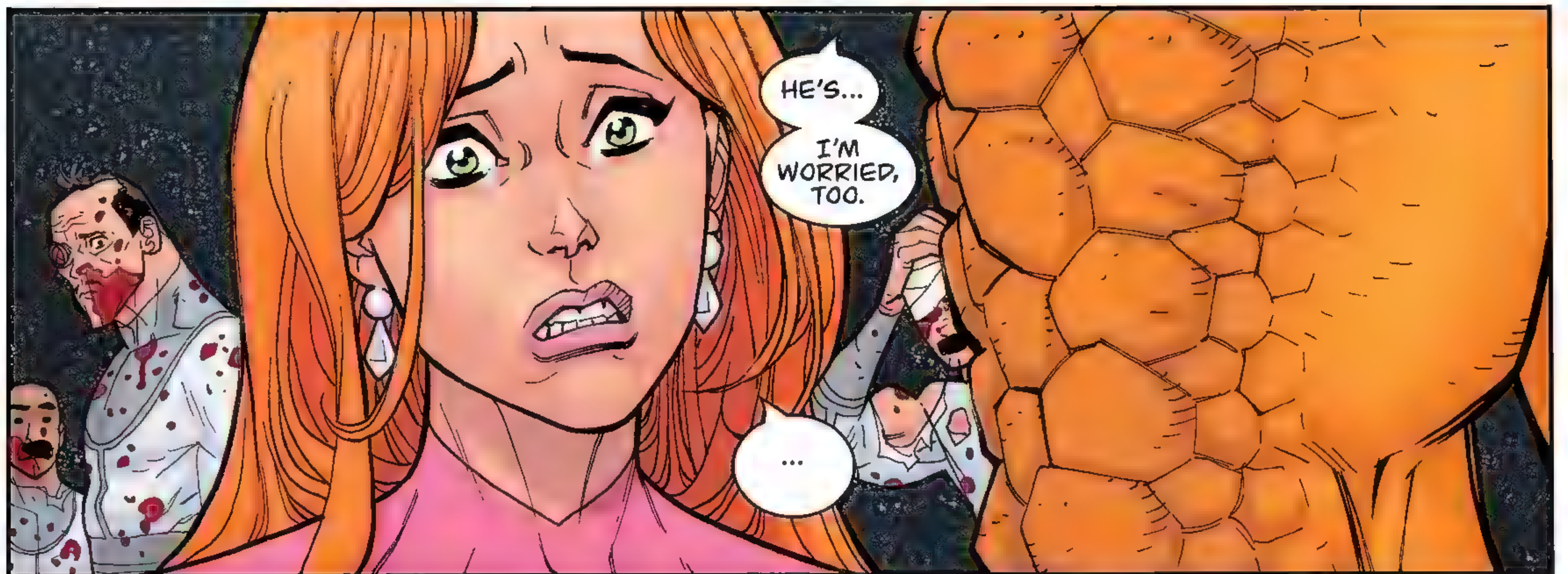
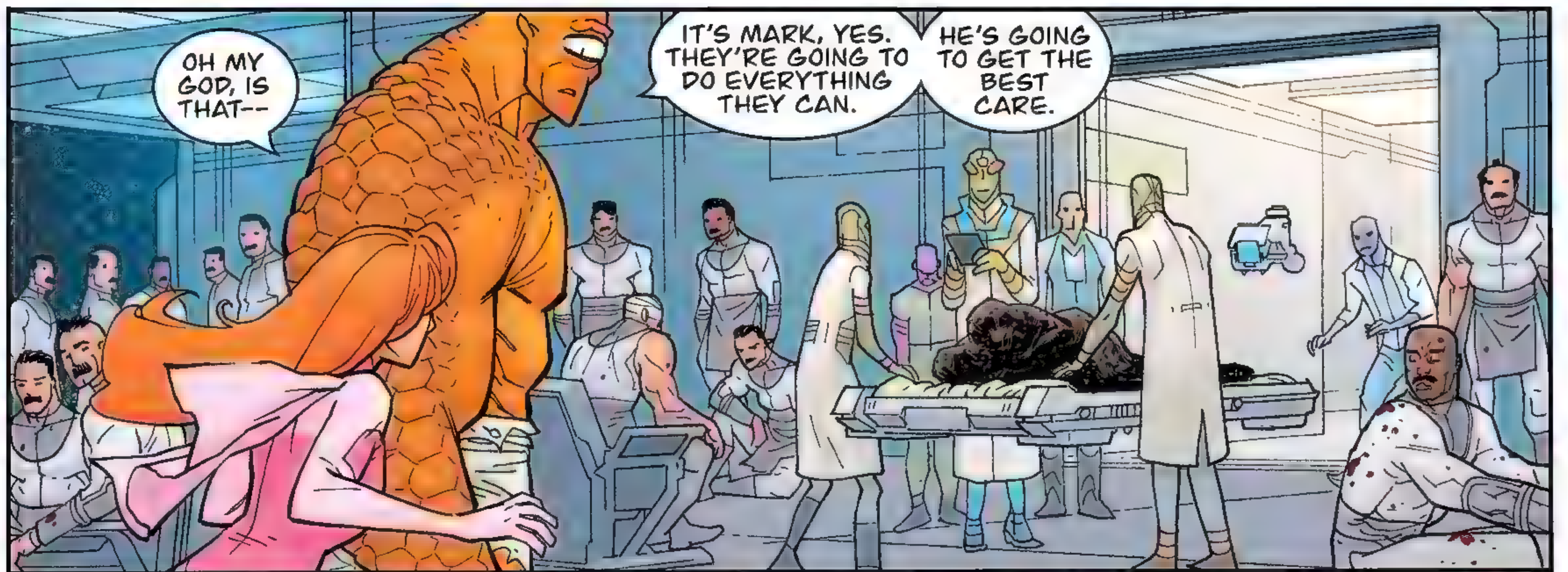
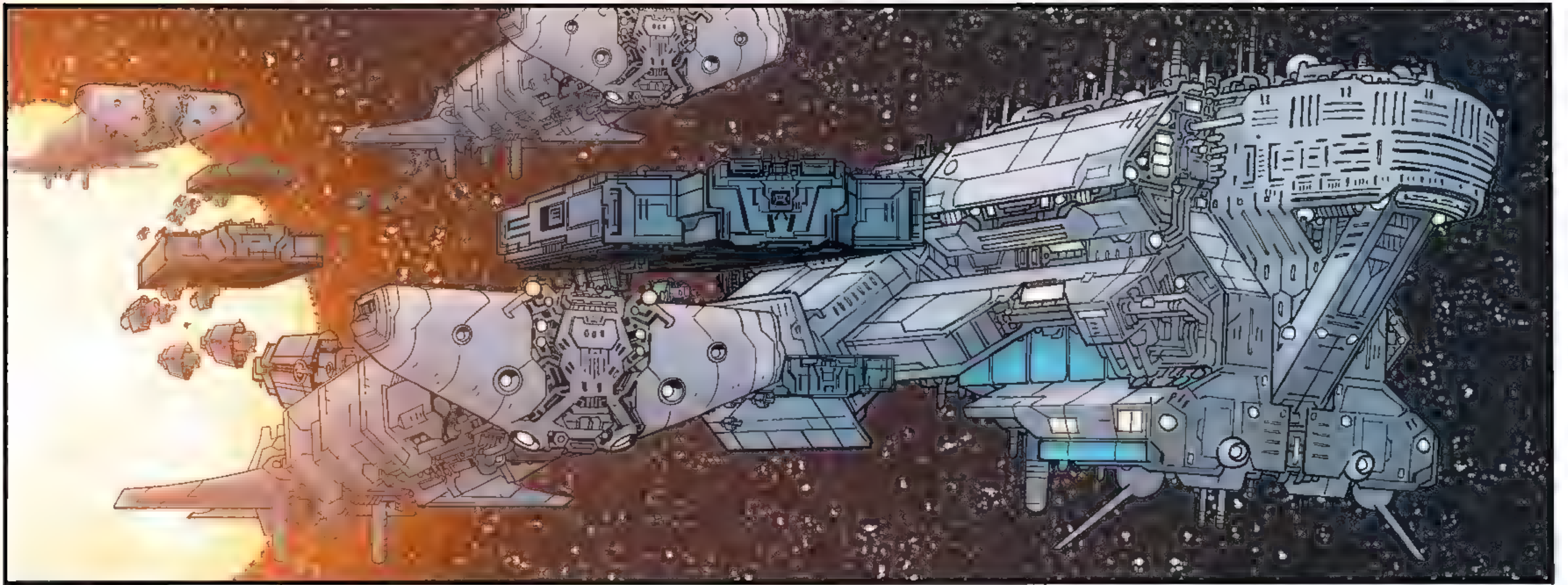
IF ONLY...

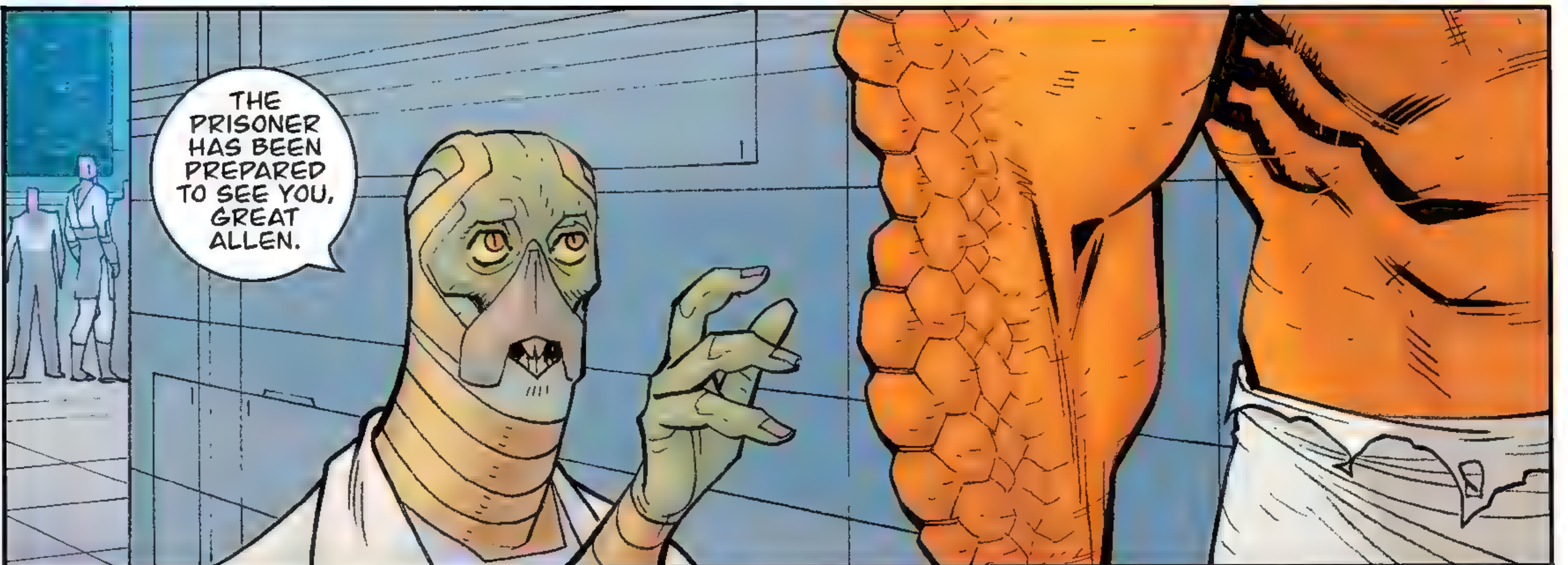


...I COULD LIVE TO SEE IT.











YOU ENDED THIS CONFLICT. THAT MEANS SOMETHING. THERE WERE CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES. IF YOU'RE WILLING, I'D LIKE TO BEGIN THE LONG PROCESS OF HEALING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN YOUR PEOPLE AND MINE.

MARK GRAYSON KILLED MY BROTHER... I ATTEMPTED TO KILL HIS MATE, THE MOTHER OF HIS CHILD. I PUT HIS CHILD IN DANGER.

I AM INTRIGUED BY YOUR PEOPLE... HOW THEY TREAT ONE ANOTHER, HOW THEY DEFEND EACH OTHER. I WANT OUR FIGHT TO BE AT AN END.

BUT I DO NOT HOLD OUT HOPE FOR OUR DIVIDE TO EVER TRULY BE HEALED.



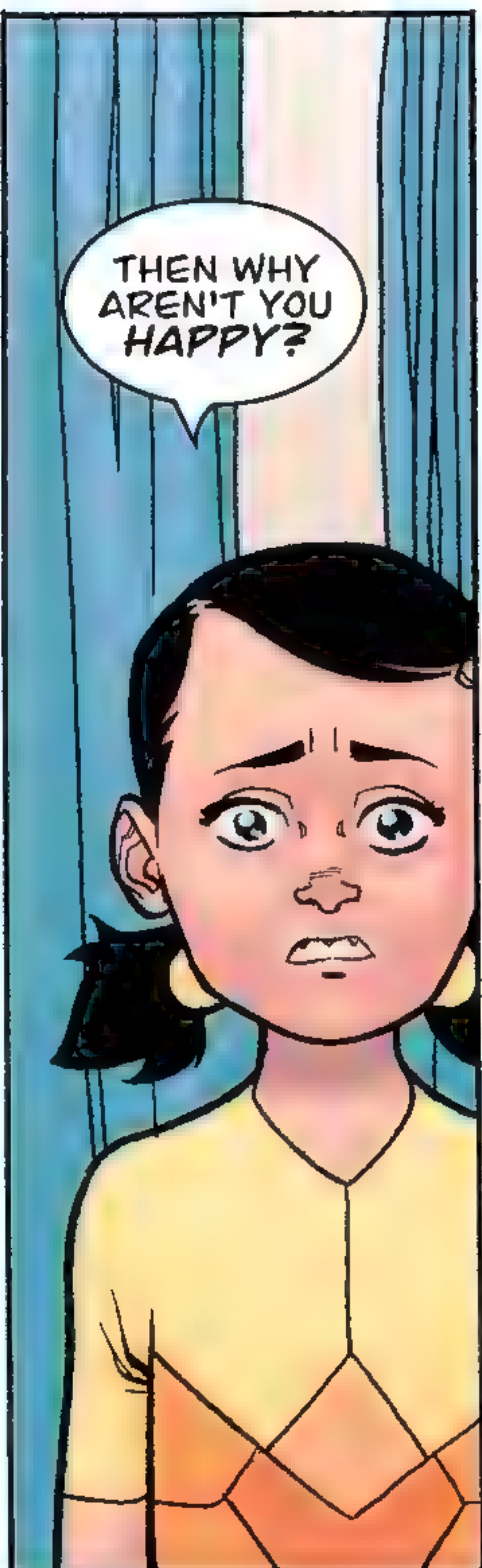
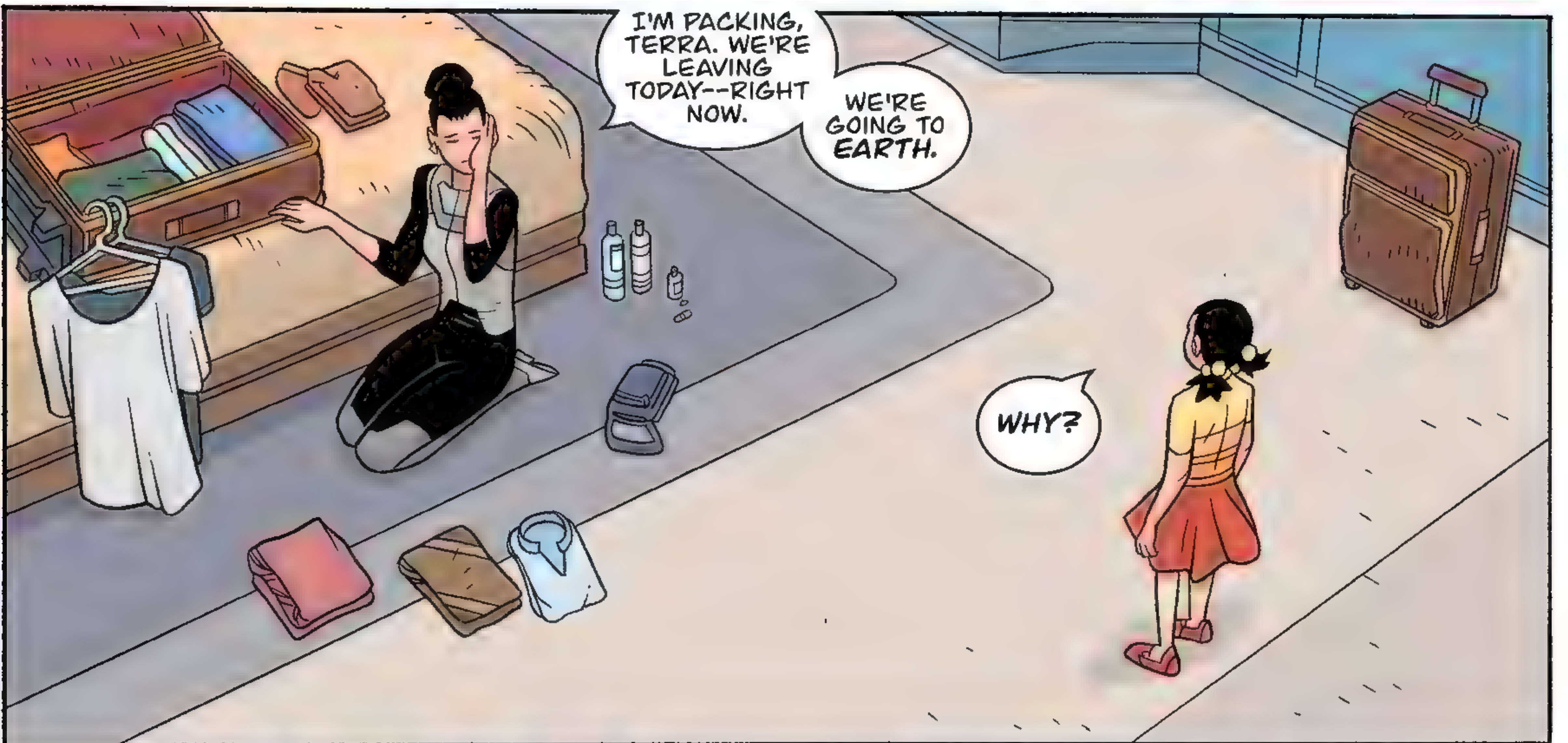
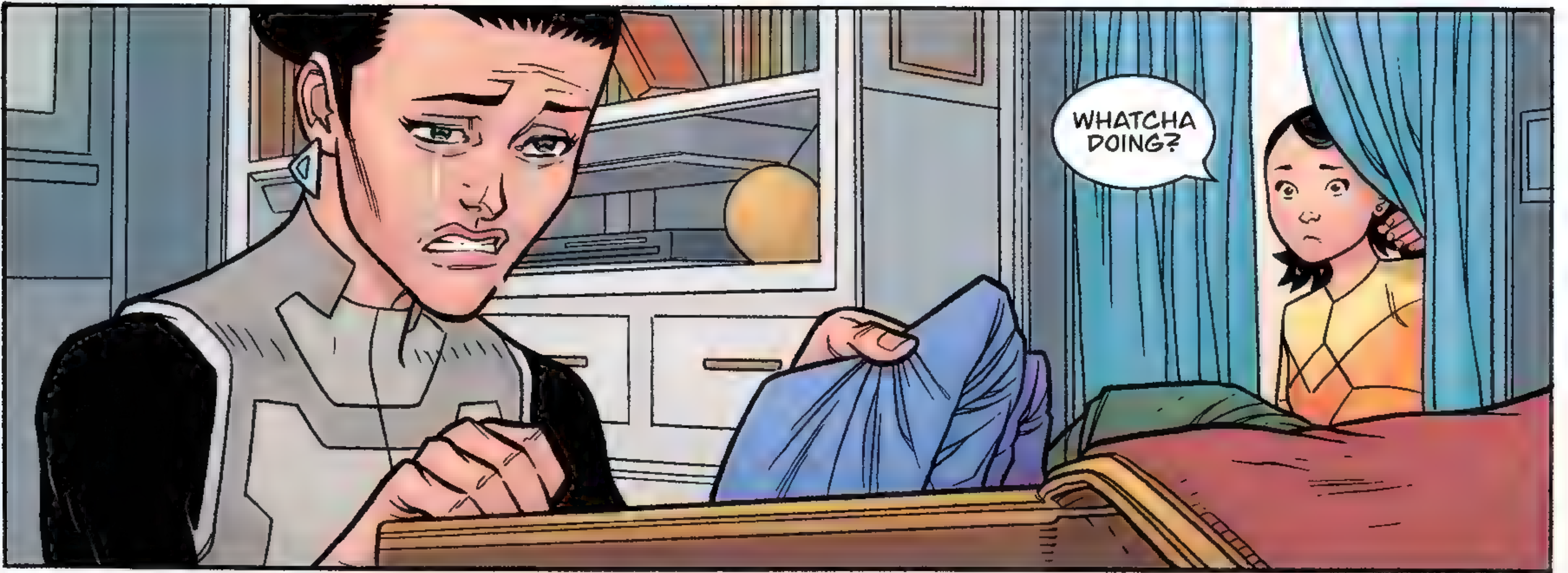
URSAAL...

...DID YOUR FATHER EVER TEACH YOUR PEOPLE THE CONCEPT OF FORGIVENESS?

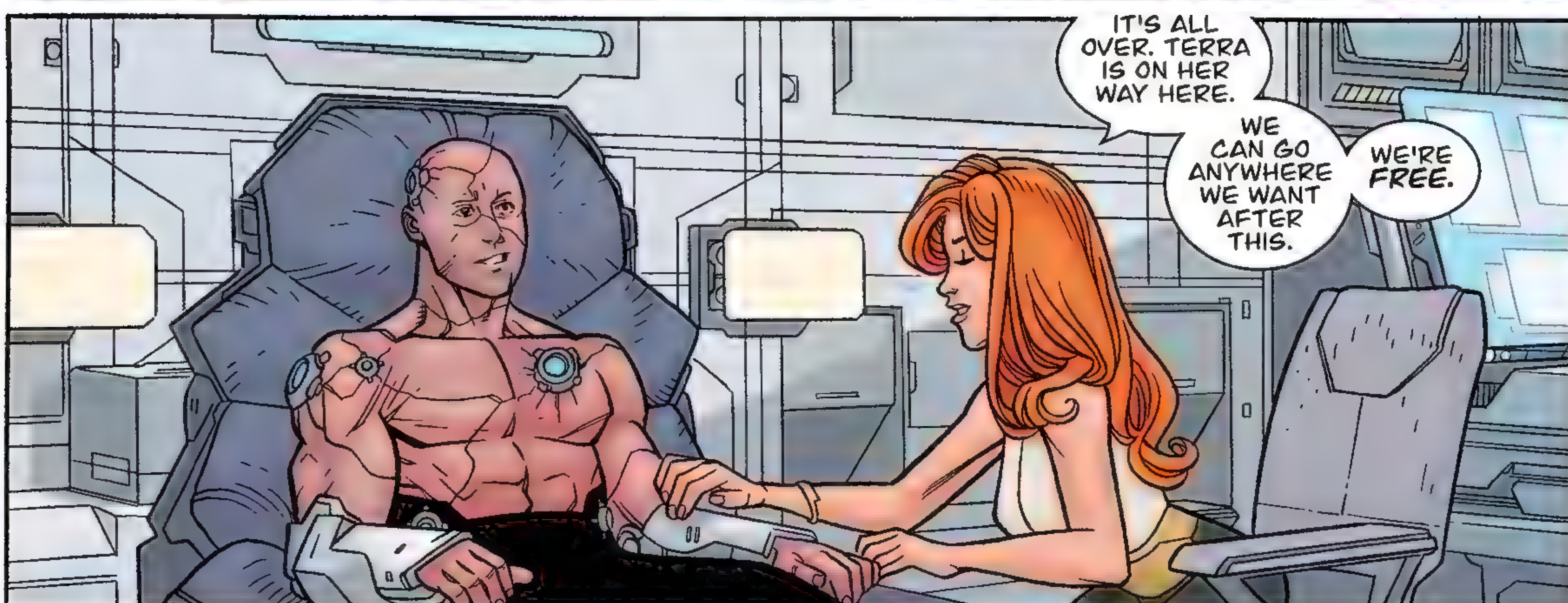


CHAPTER THREE





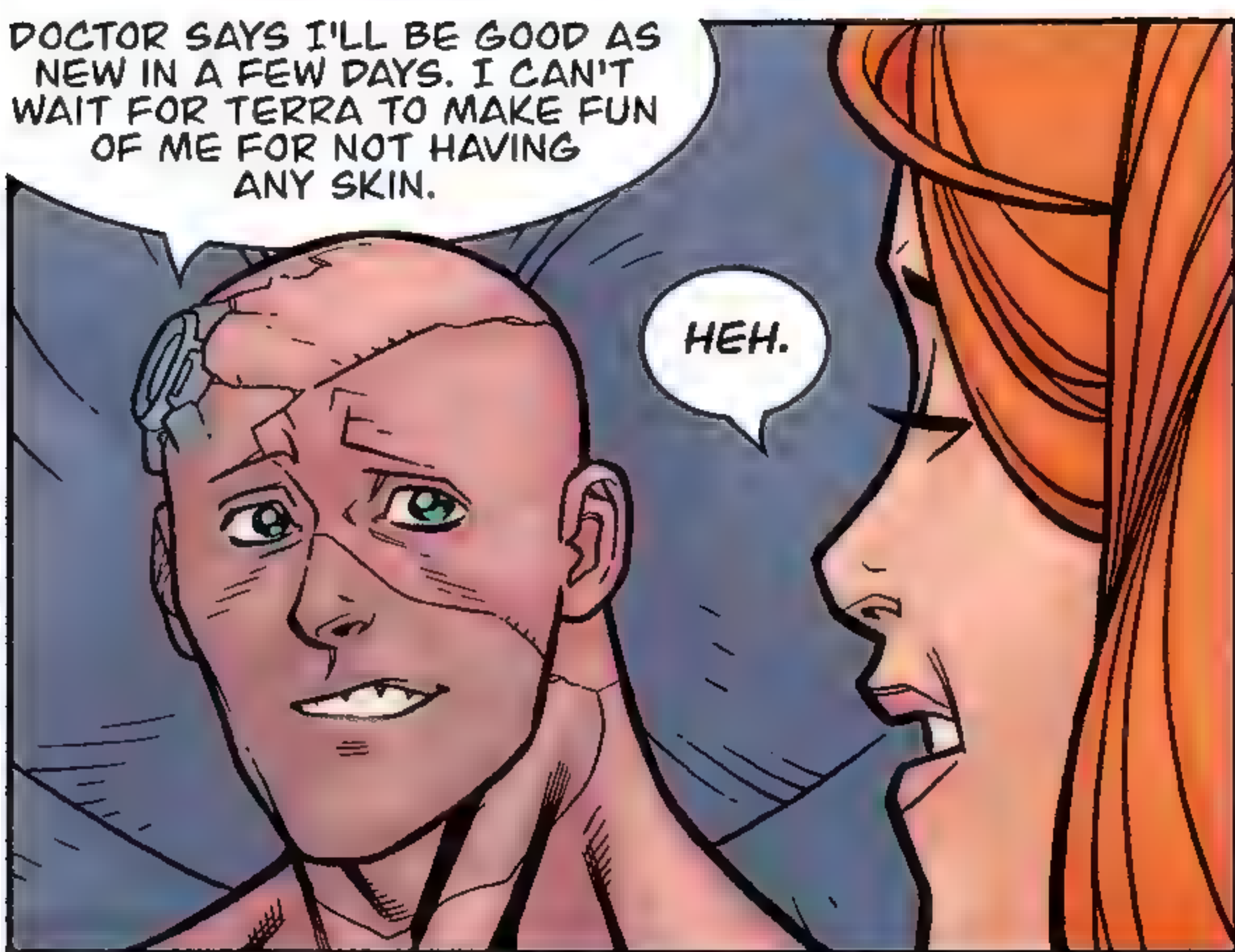




IT'S ALL OVER. TERRA IS ON HER WAY HERE.

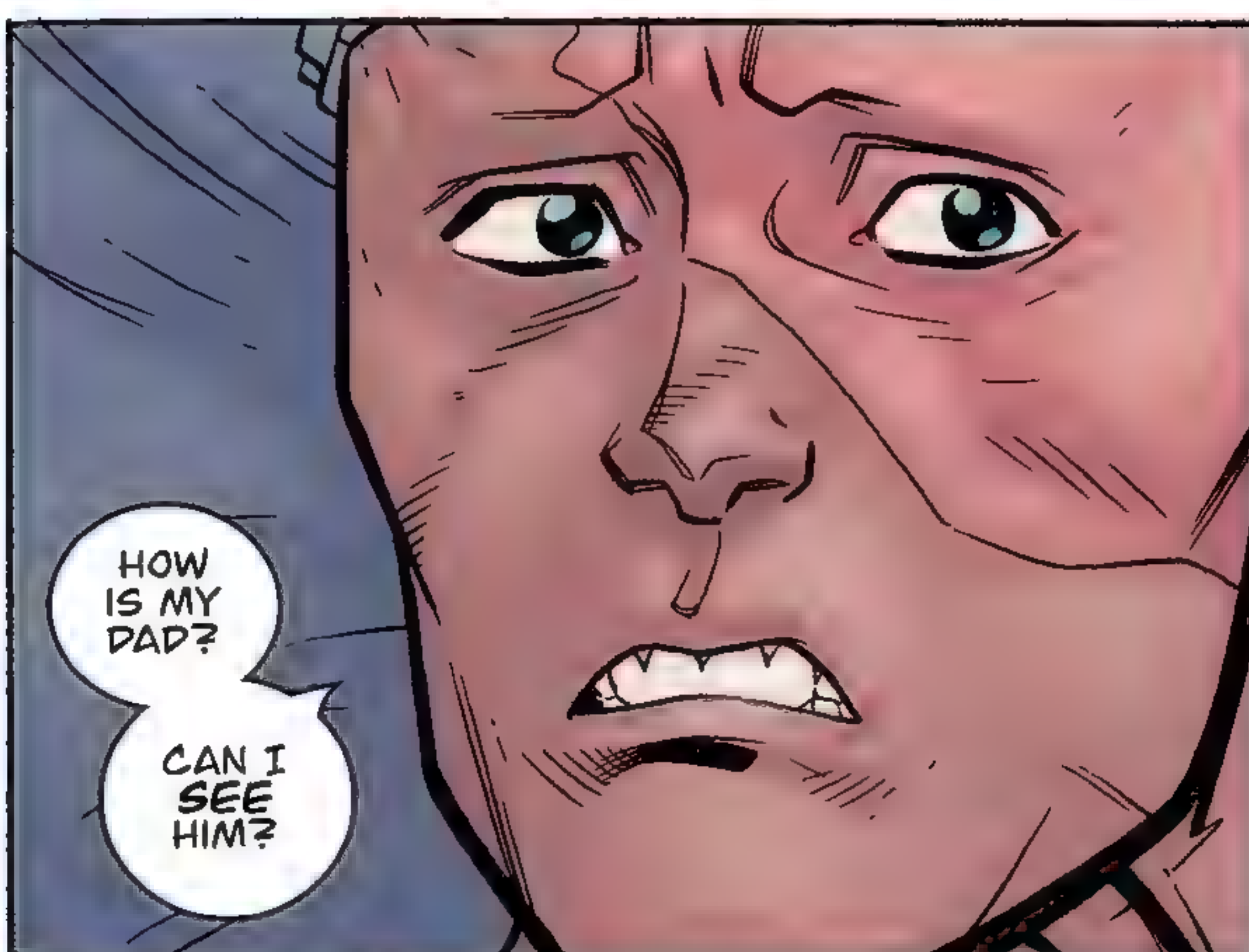
WE CAN GO ANYWHERE WE WANT AFTER THIS.

WE'RE FREE.



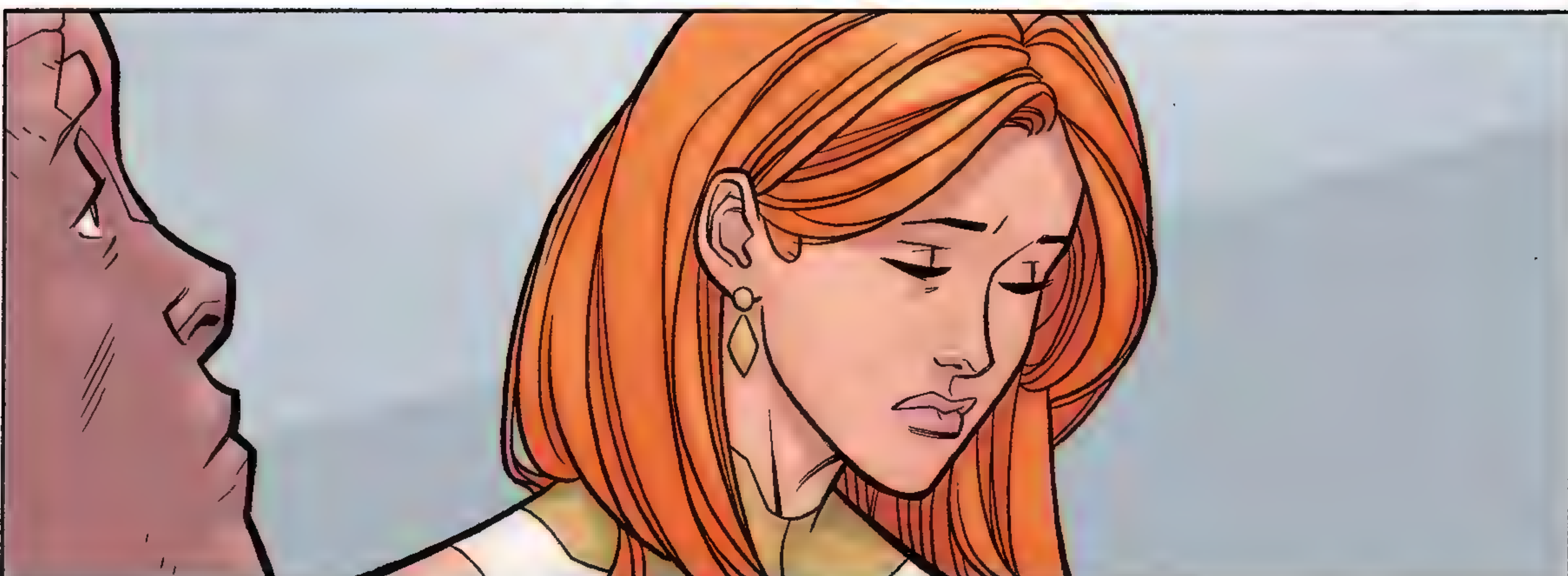
DOCTOR SAYS I'LL BE GOOD AS NEW IN A FEW DAYS. I CAN'T WAIT FOR TERRA TO MAKE FUN OF ME FOR NOT HAVING ANY SKIN.

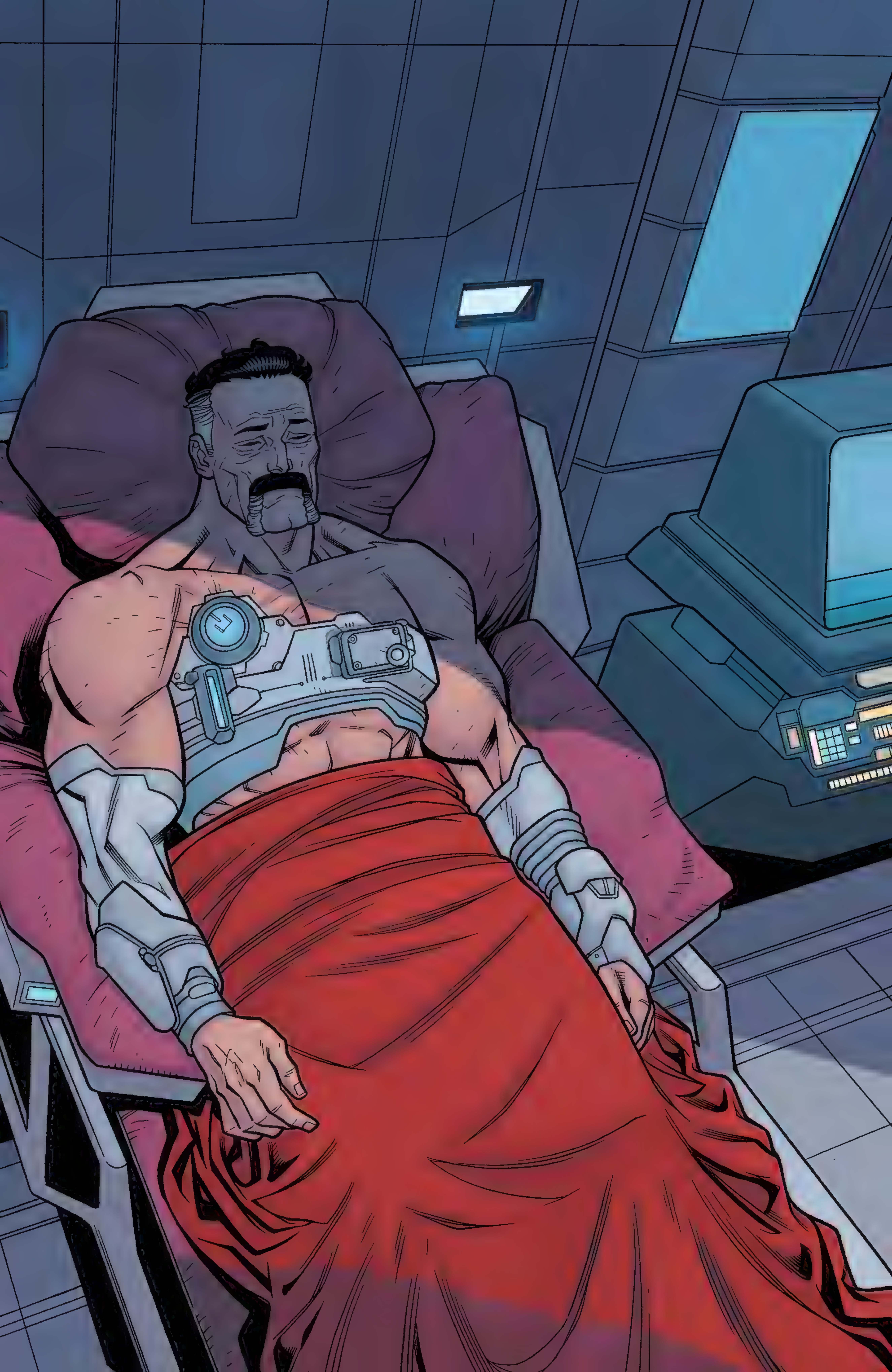
HEH.

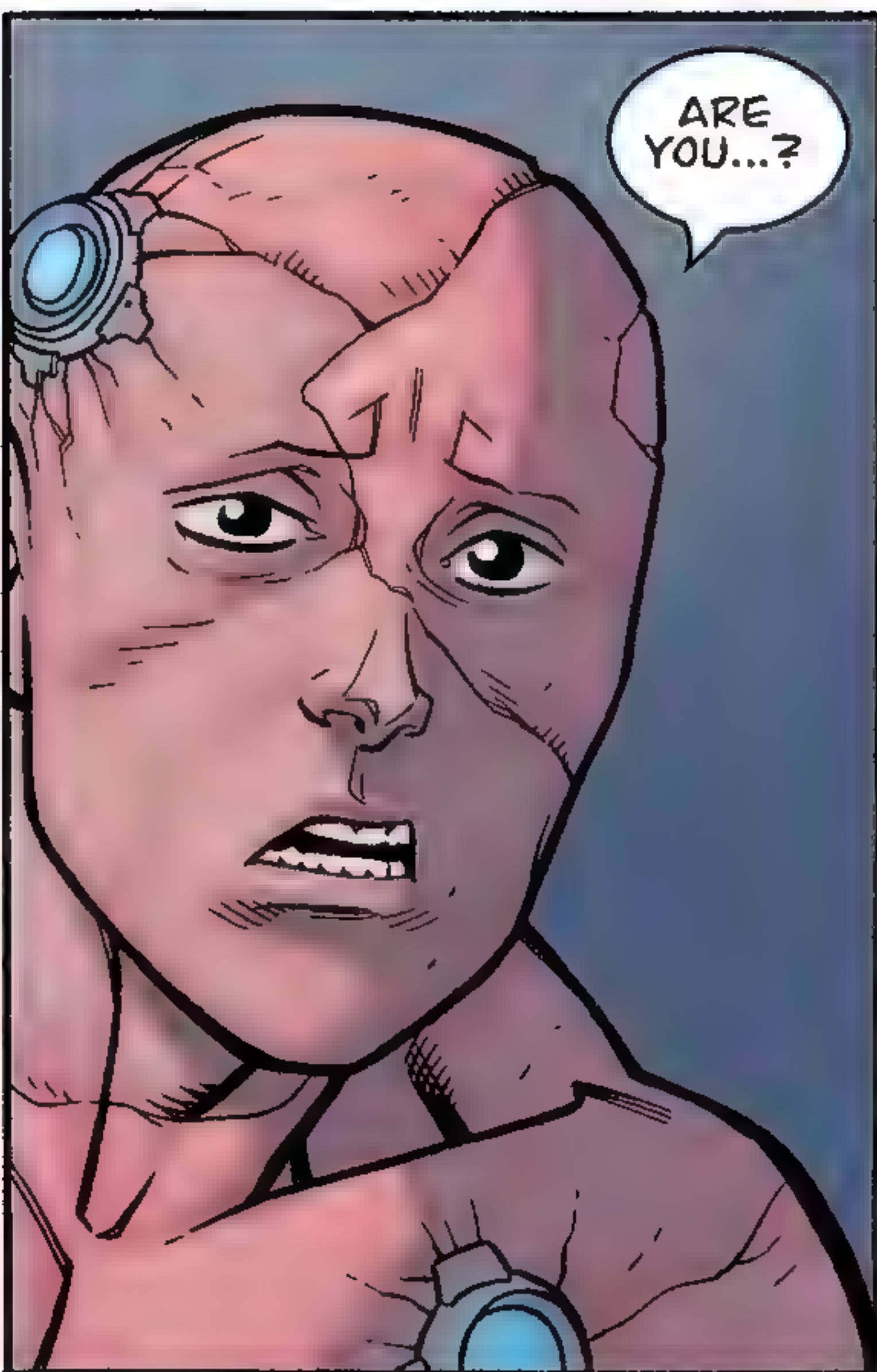


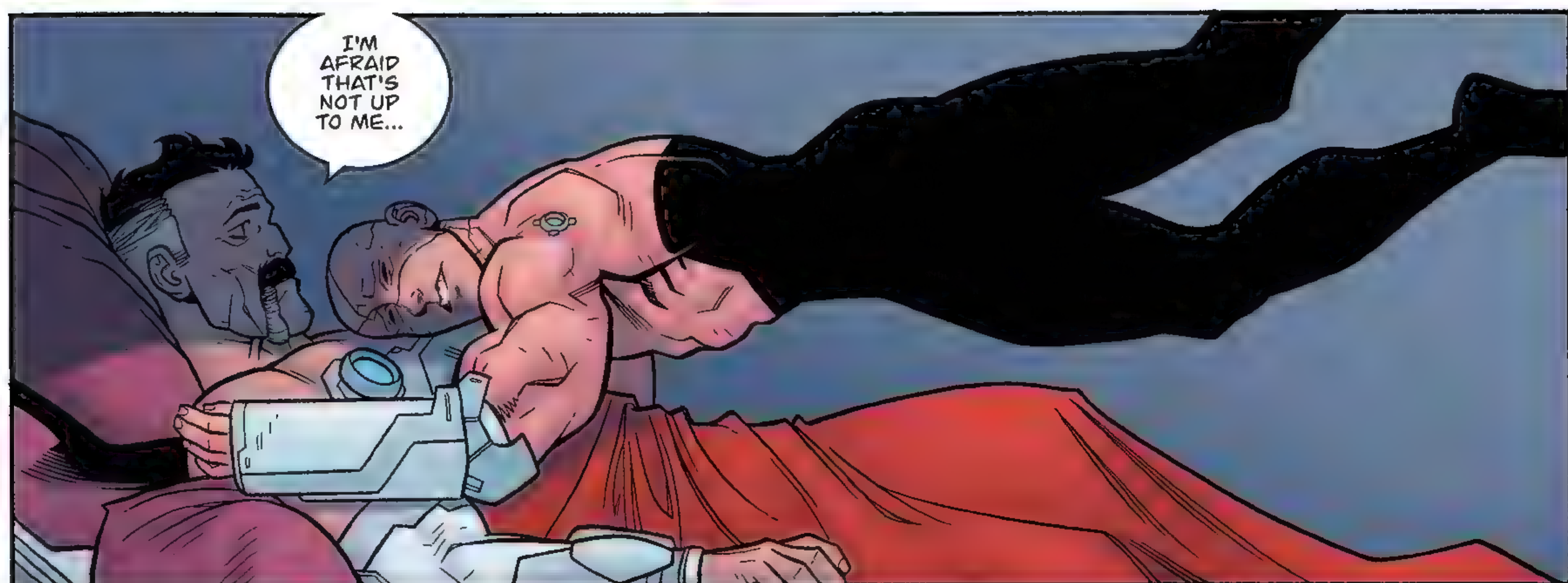
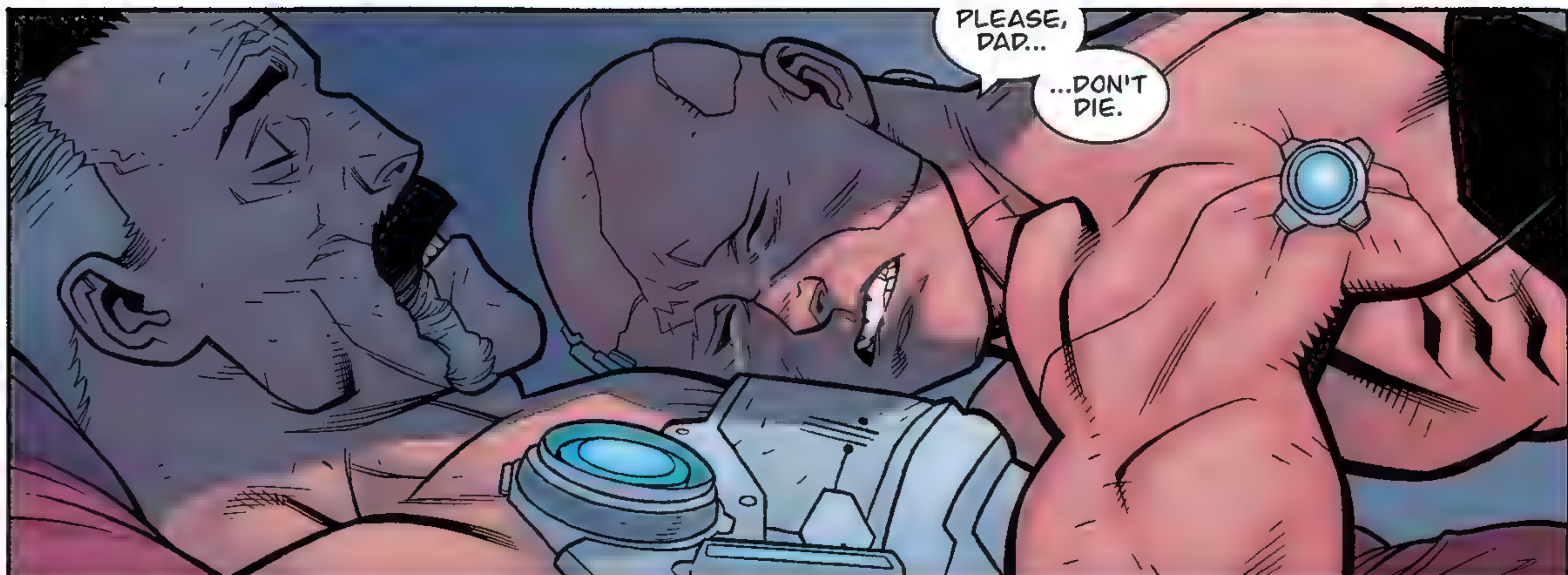
HOW IS MY DAD?

CAN I SEE HIM?











MY HEART IS
DAMAGED...

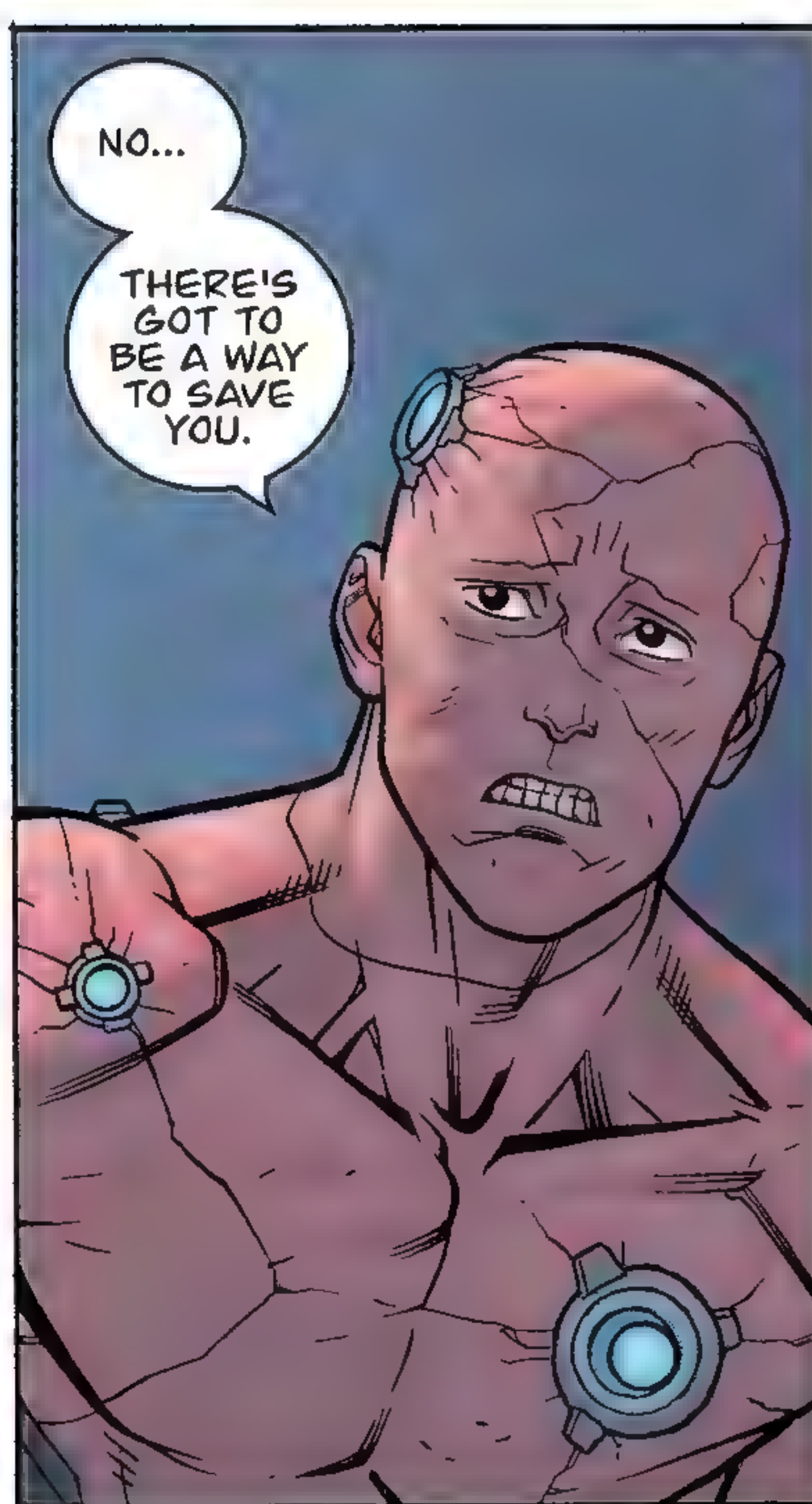
I WAS
ABLE TO
DODGE THE
BRUNT OF
THRAGG'S
ATTACK...

...BUT NOT
ENOUGH IT
SEEMS.



BECAUSE
OF MY
DAMAGED
HEART...

...MY BODY
ISN'T STRONG
ENOUGH TO
REPAIR
ITSELF...



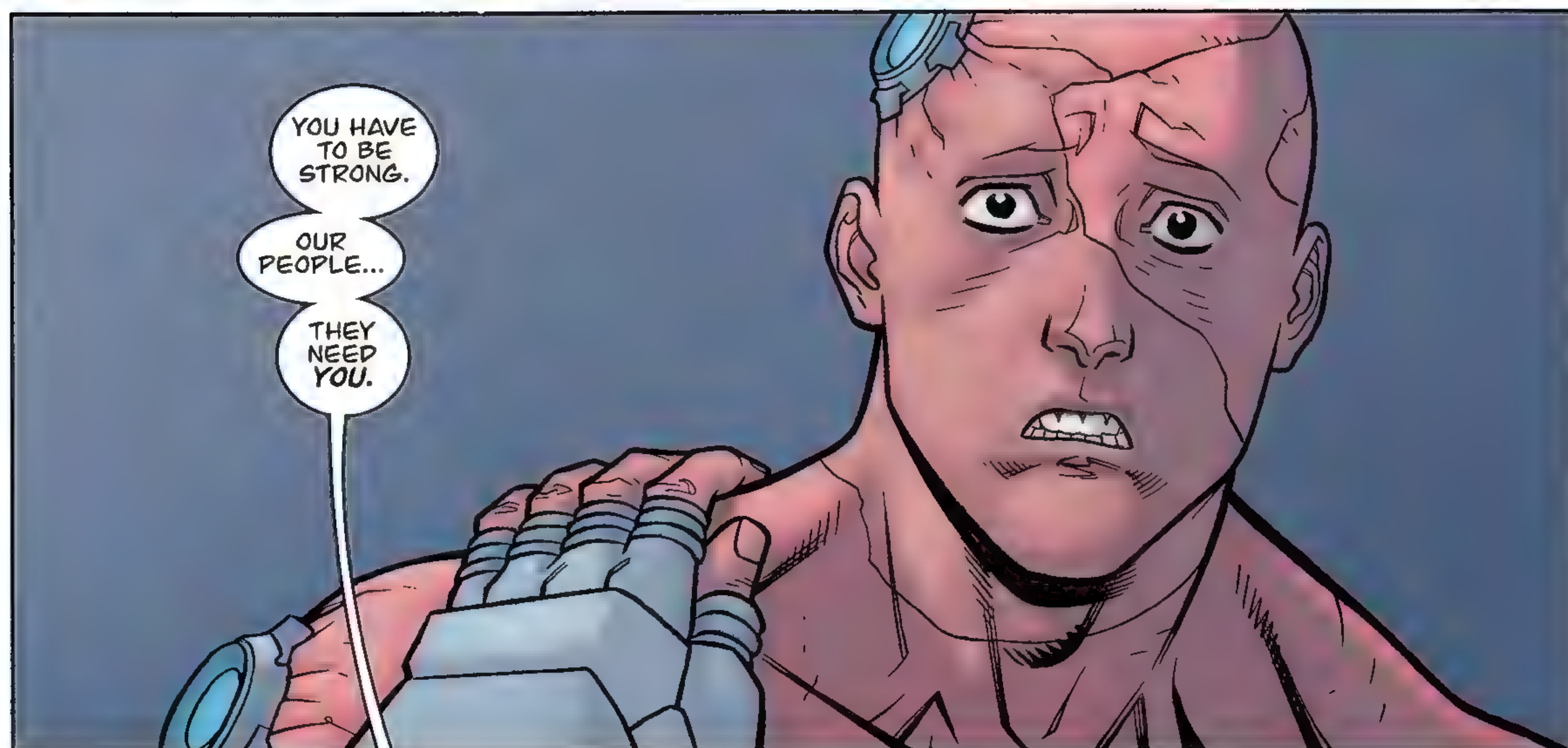
NO...

THERE'S
GOT TO
BE A WAY
TO SAVE
YOU.



THERE
ISN'T.

LISTEN
TO ME,
MARK.



YOU HAVE
TO BE
STRONG.

OUR
PEOPLE...

THEY
NEED
YOU.



IT'S TIME
FOR YOU TO
LEAD THE
VILTRUMITES.



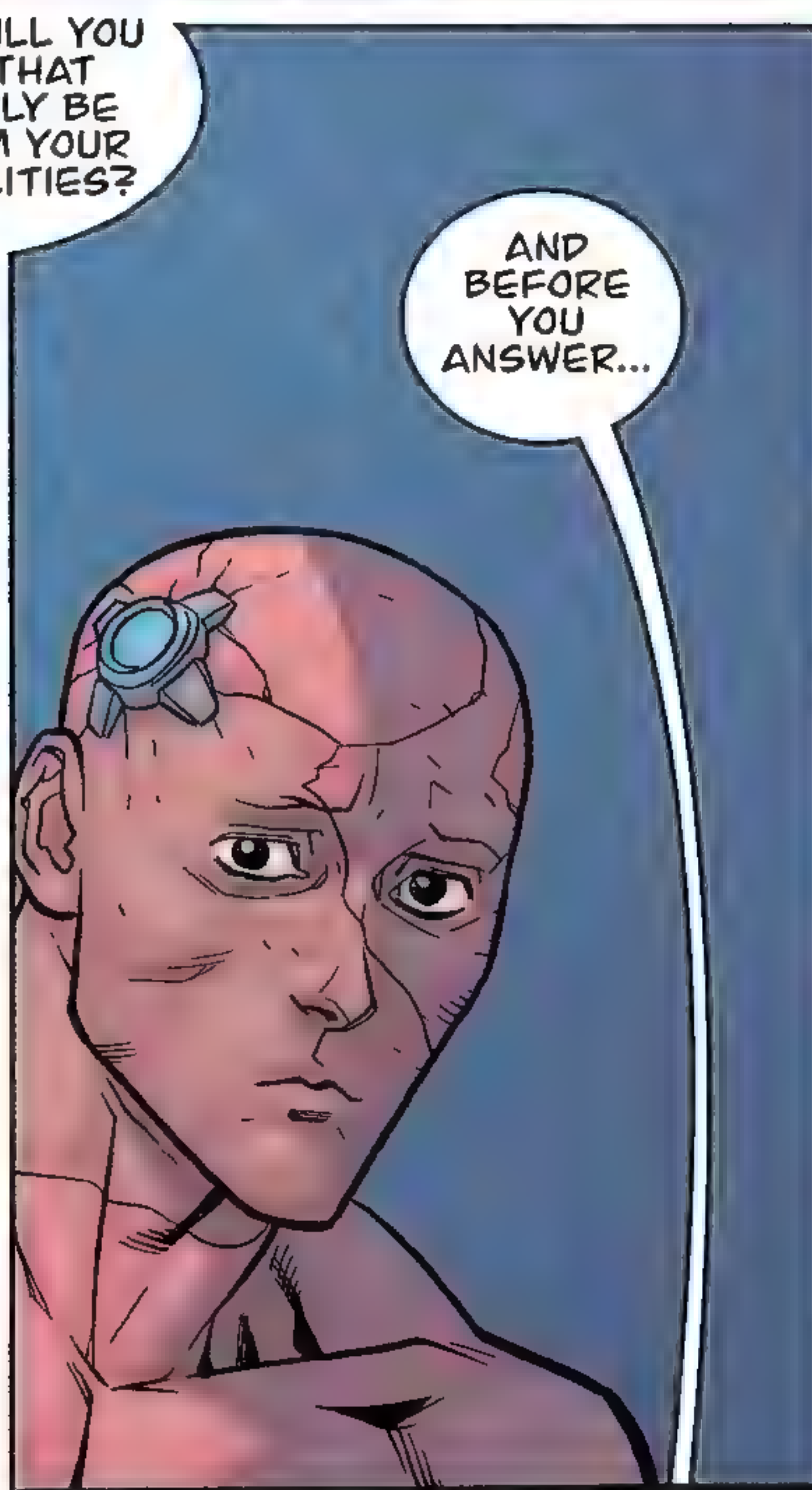
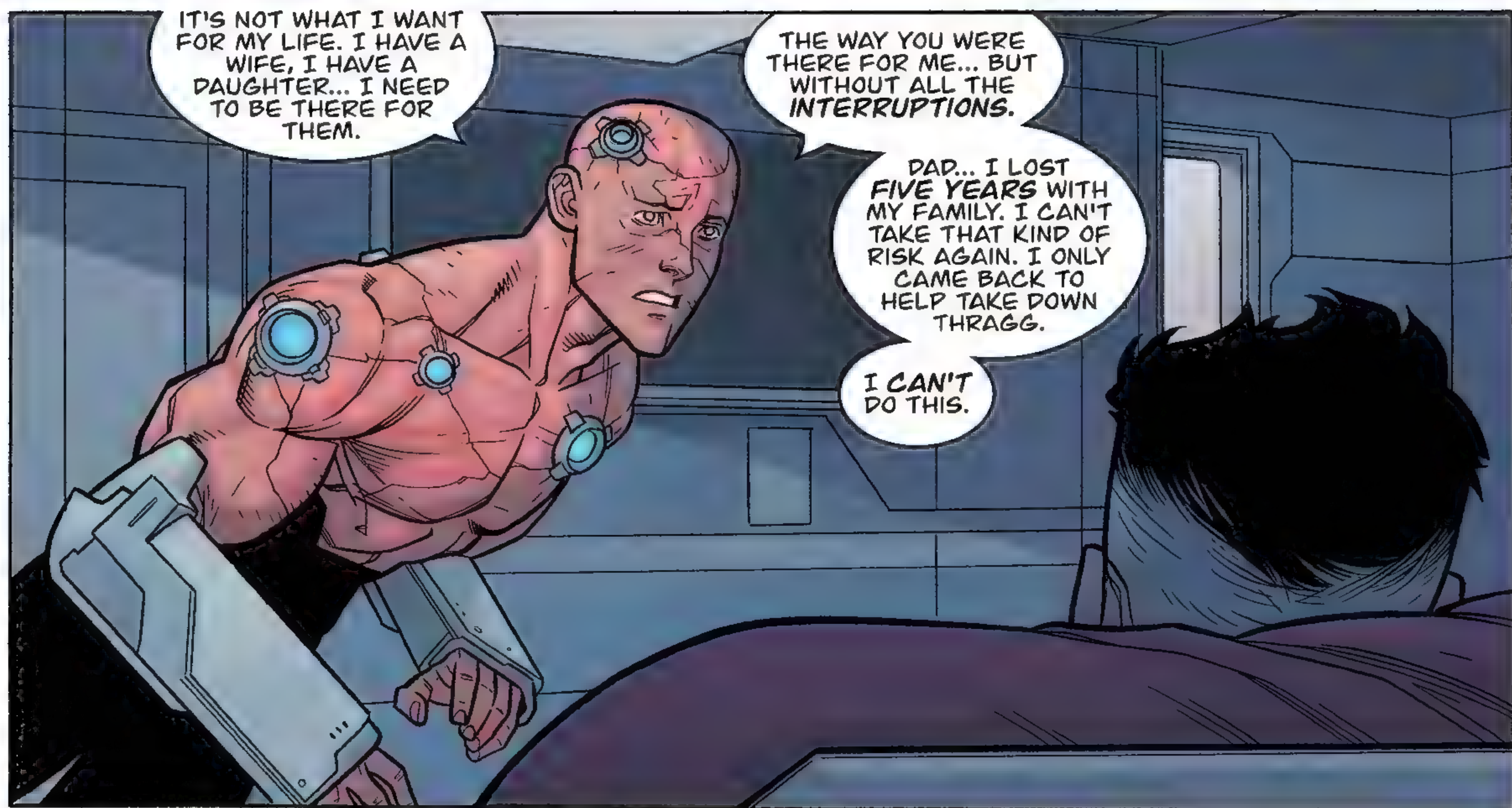
I'M NOT
READY
FOR
THAT.



YOU'RE
MORE
READY THAN
I WAS WHEN
I TOOK
OVER.



I DON'T
WANT
IT.





THEY NEED YOU, MARK. NOT JUST A GOOD LEADER... NOT JUST SOMEONE WORTHY... THEY NEED YOU.

I THINK ABOUT THRAGG... WHAT HE DID... AND IT REMINDS ME WHO I AM...

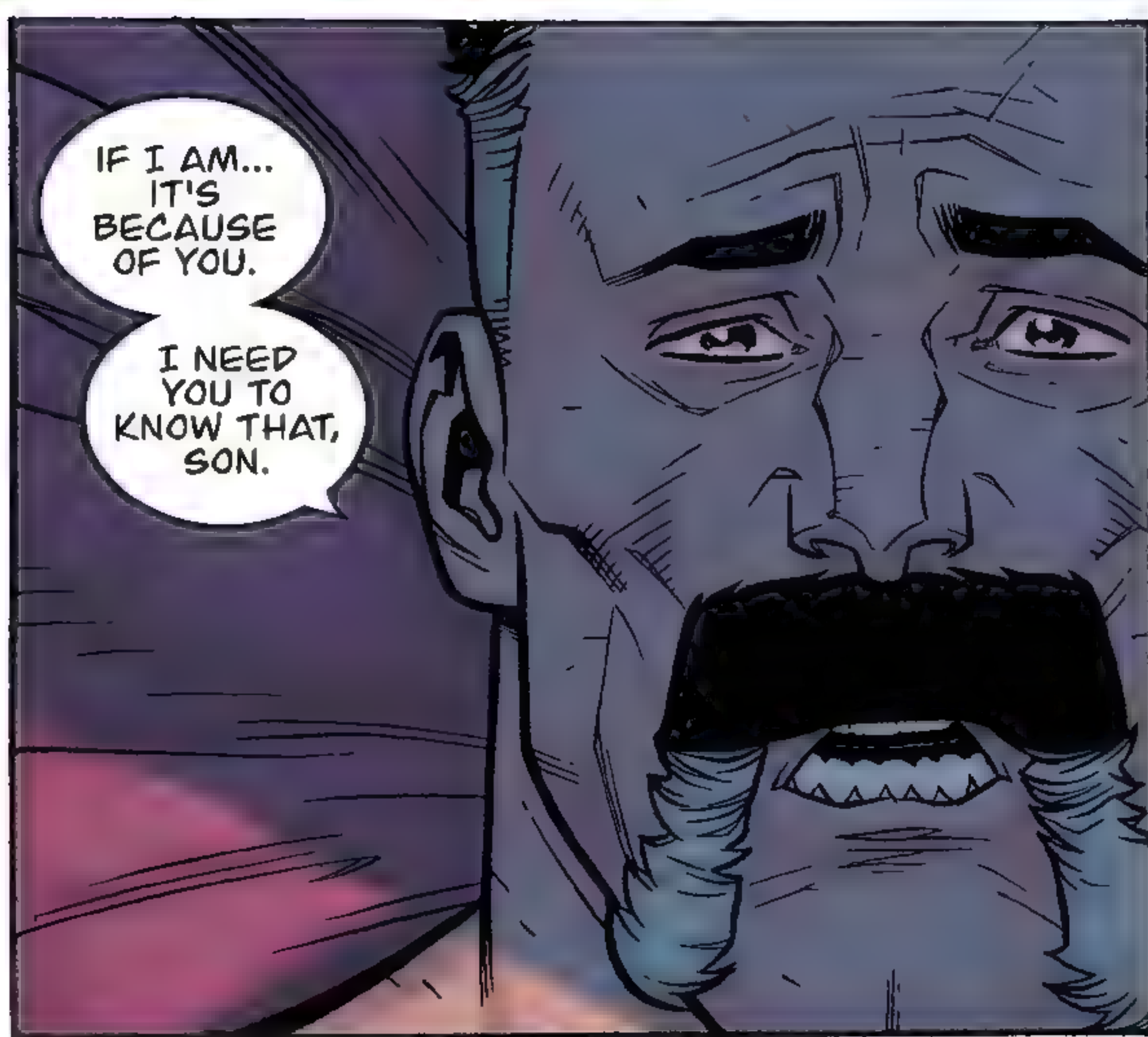
...WHO I WAS.

BUT MORE THAN THAT... WHO I COULD EASILY BE AGAIN.



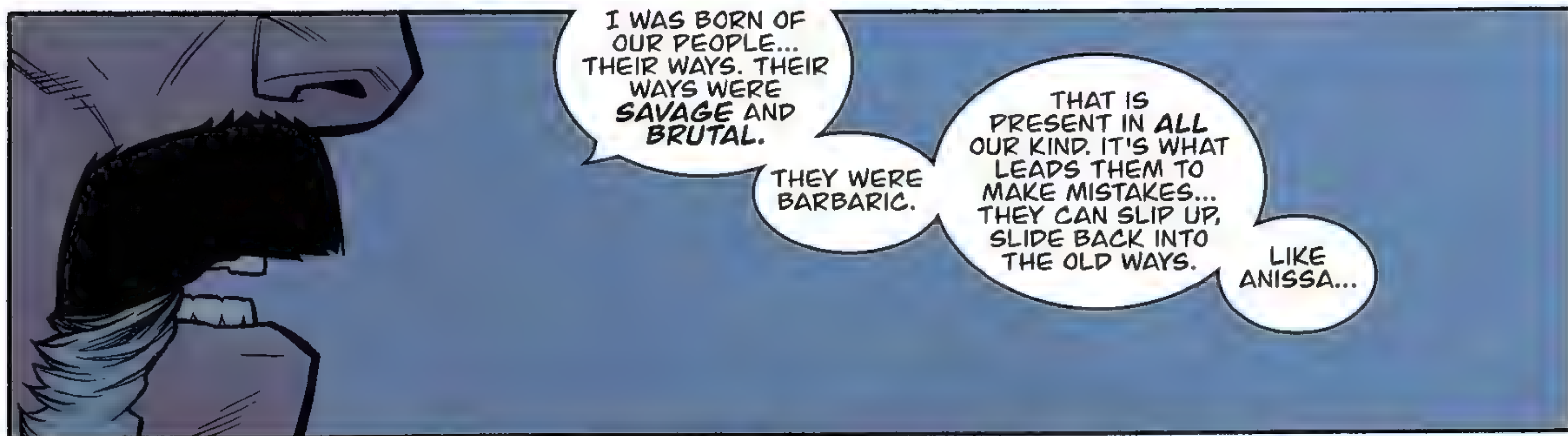
NO. YOU'D NEVER--

YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT.



IF I AM... IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU.

I NEED YOU TO KNOW THAT, SON.

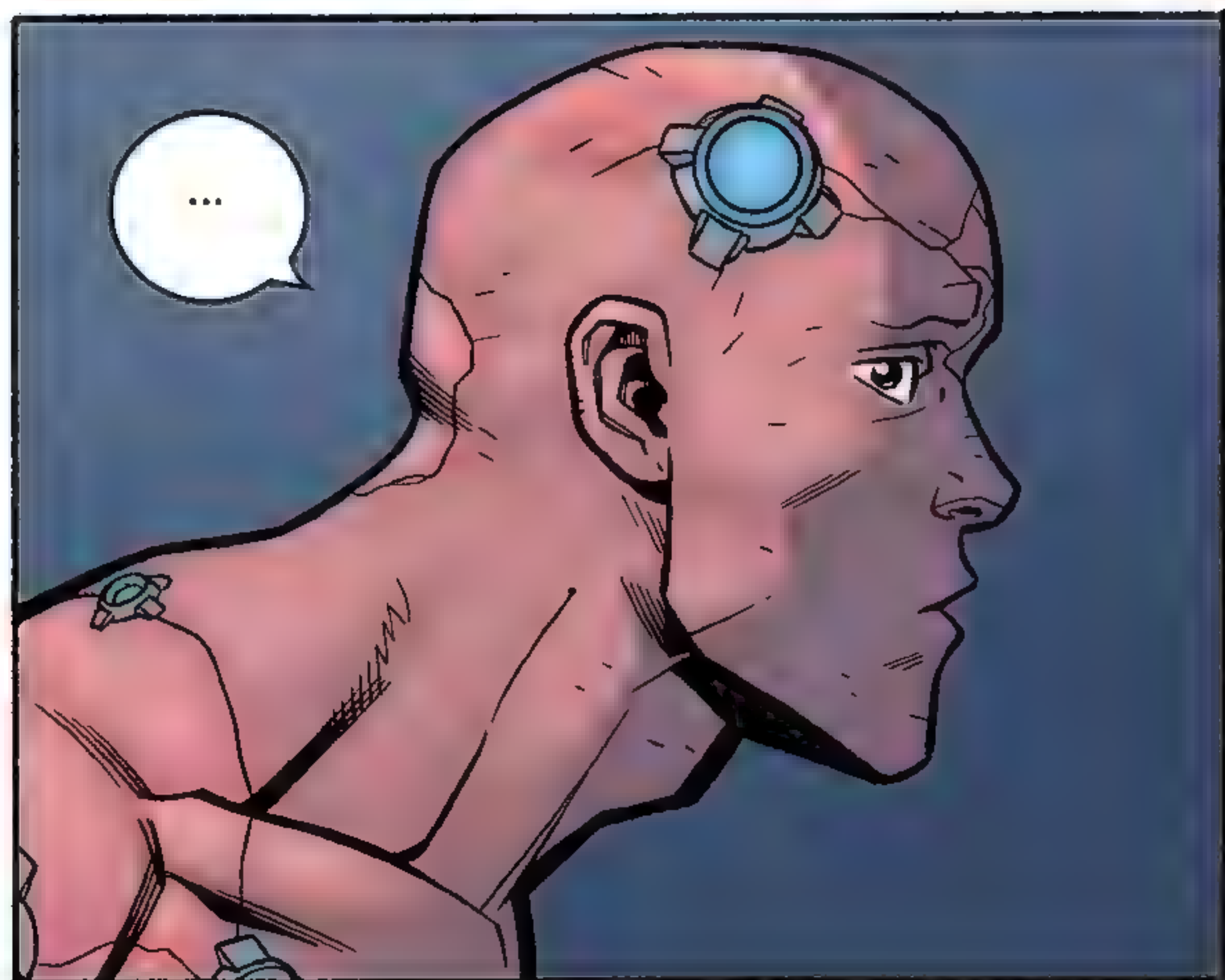


I WAS BORN OF OUR PEOPLE... THEIR WAYS. THEIR WAYS WERE SAVAGE AND BRUTAL.

THEY WERE BARBARIC.

THAT IS PRESENT IN ALL OUR KIND. IT'S WHAT LEADS THEM TO MAKE MISTAKES... THEY CAN SLIP UP, SLIDE BACK INTO THE OLD WAYS.

LIKE ANISSA...



...



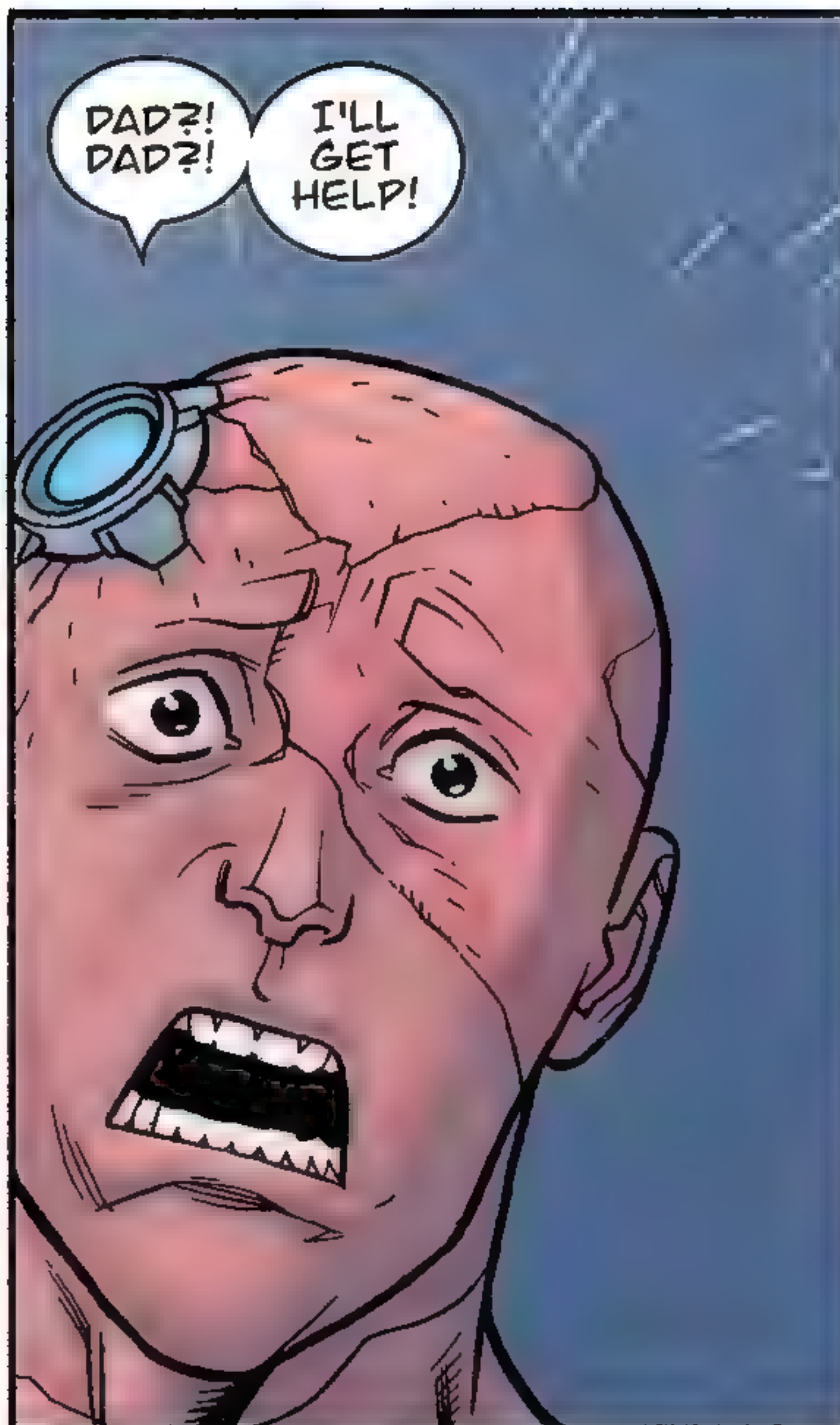
YOU ARE FREE FROM THAT. YOU WERE ALWAYS ON A DIFFERENT PATH.

YOU CAN SHOW US THE WAY.



YOU
CAN--

≡KOFF!≡
≡KOFF!≡



DAD?!
DAD?!

I'LL
GET
HELP!



NO,
I'M FINE--
I'M--

YOU
HAVE TO
LISTEN
TO ME.

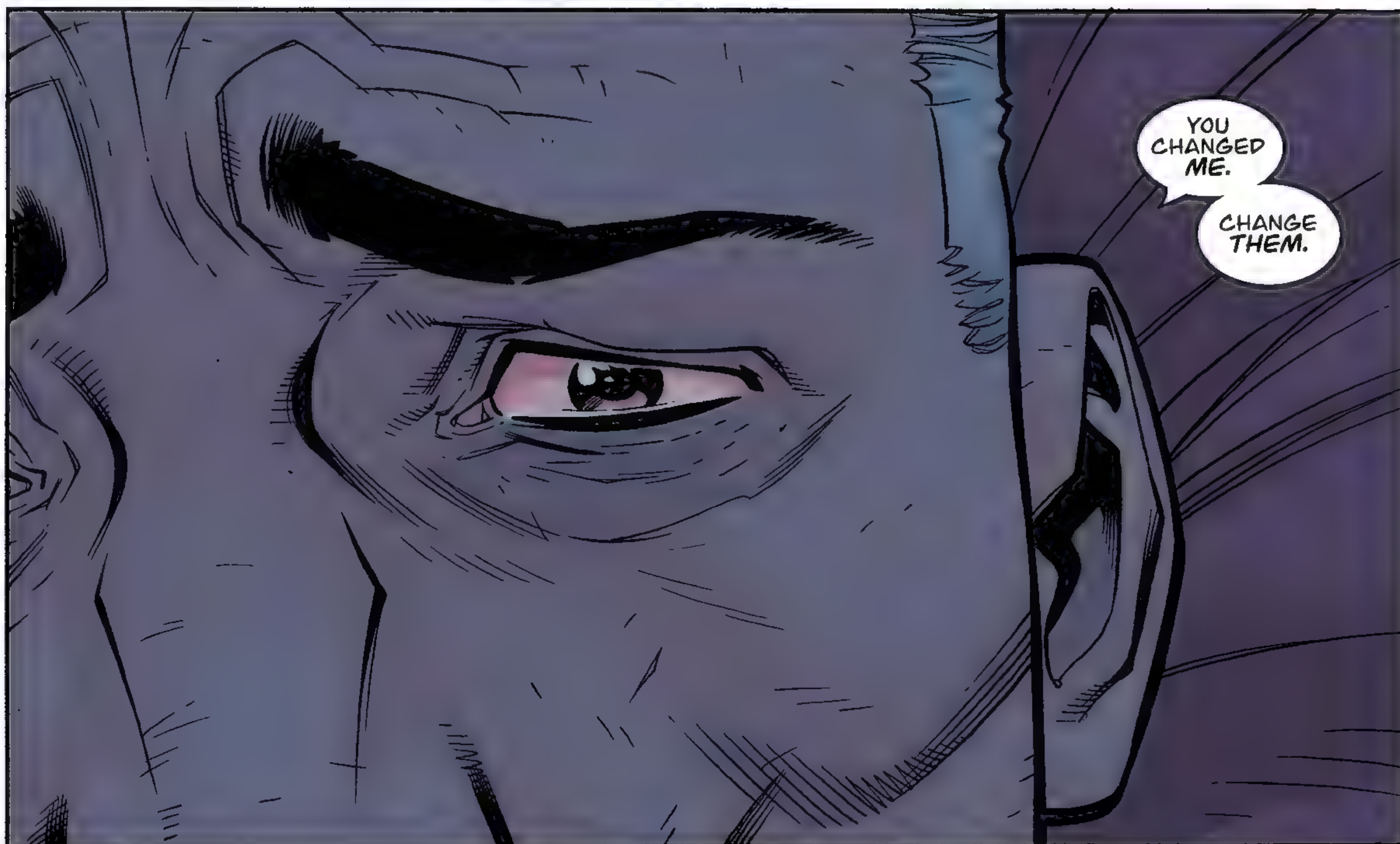


YOU'RE GOING TO LEAD
OUR PEOPLE TO GREAT
HEIGHTS. YOU'RE
GOING TO SHOW THEM
YOUR WAYS... YOUR
COMPASSION...

...YOU'RE
GOING
TO...

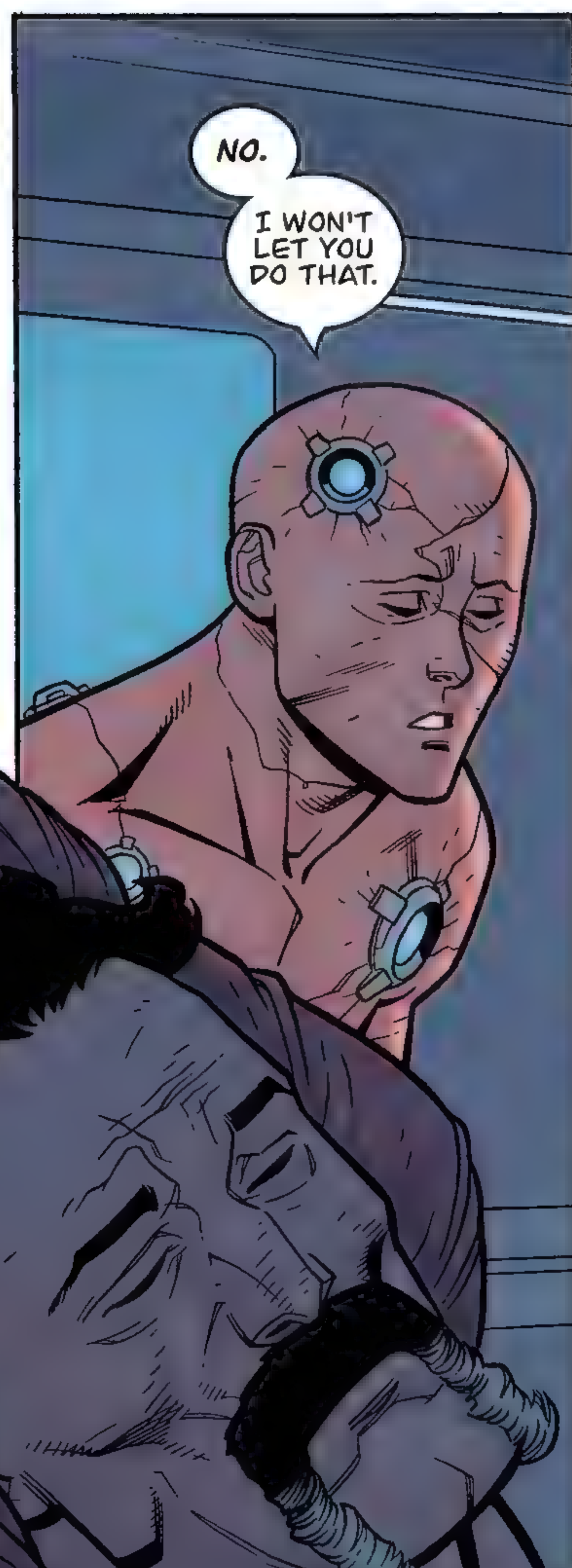
YOU'RE...

MARK.

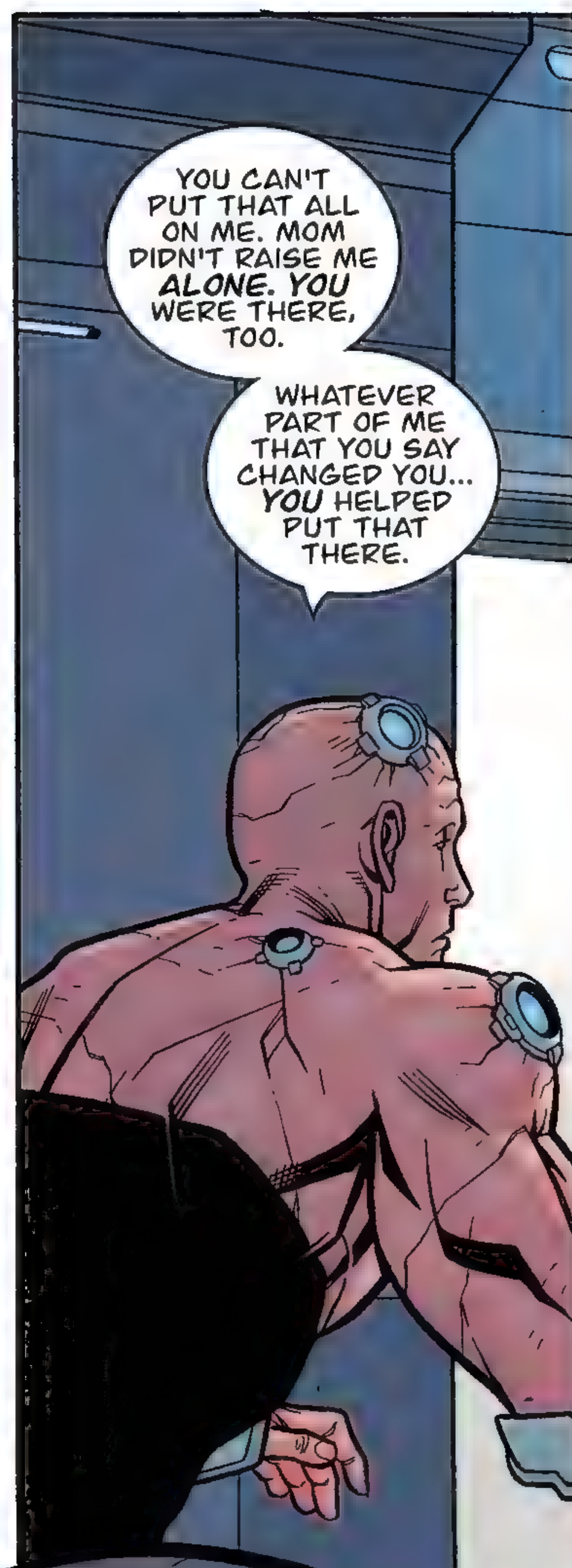


YOU
CHANGED
ME.

CHANGE
THEM.

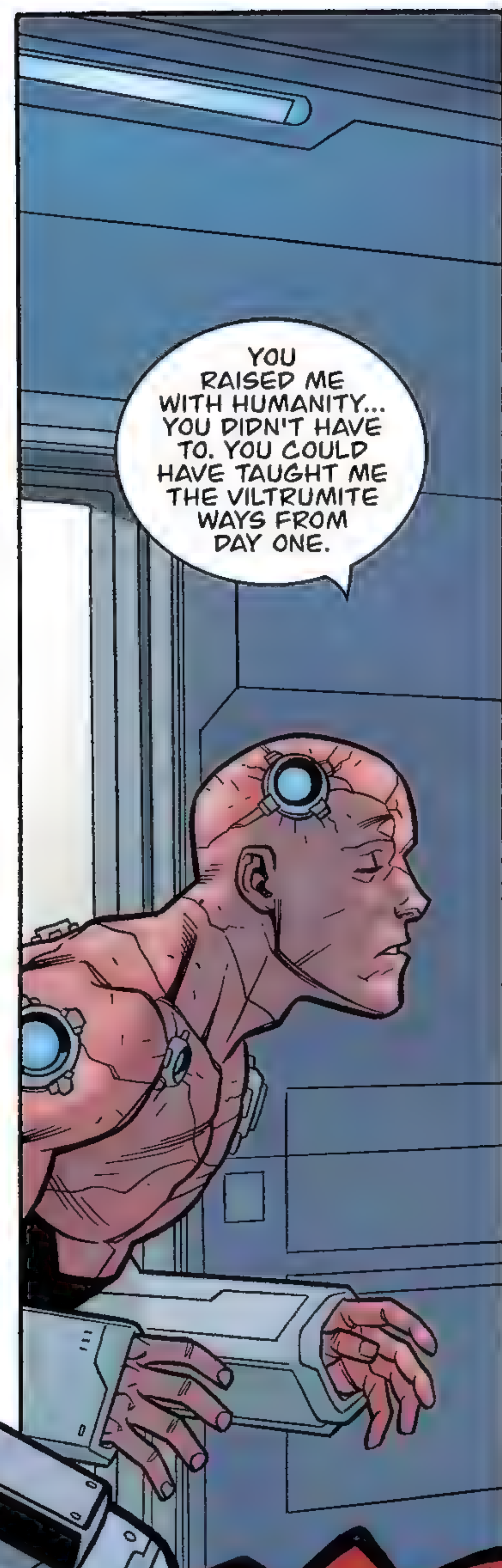


NO.
I WON'T
LET YOU
DO THAT.

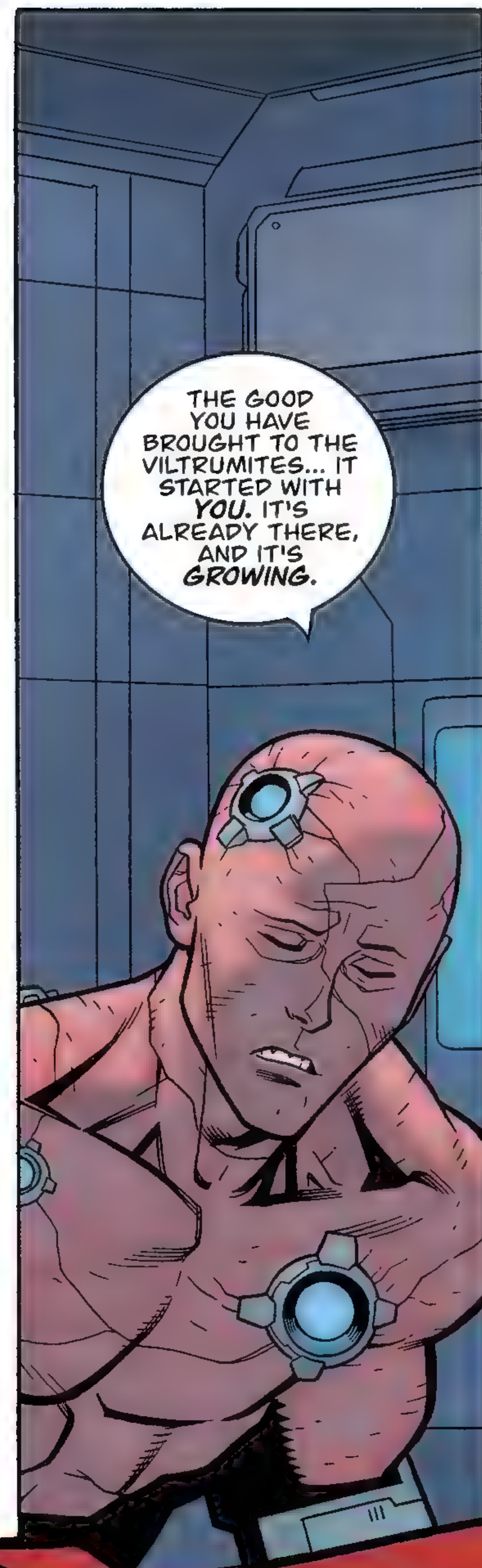


YOU CAN'T
PUT THAT ALL
ON ME. MOM
DIDN'T RAISE ME
ALONE. YOU
WERE THERE,
TOO.

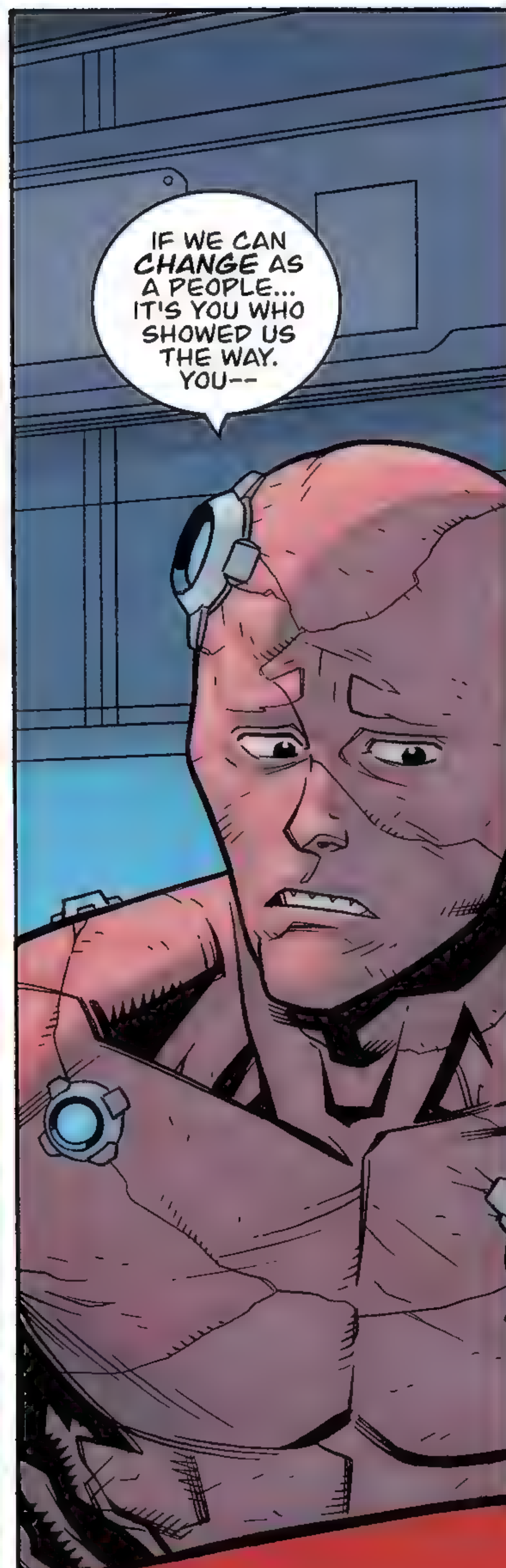
WHATEVER
PART OF ME
THAT YOU SAY
CHANGED YOU...
YOU HELPED
PUT THAT
THERE.



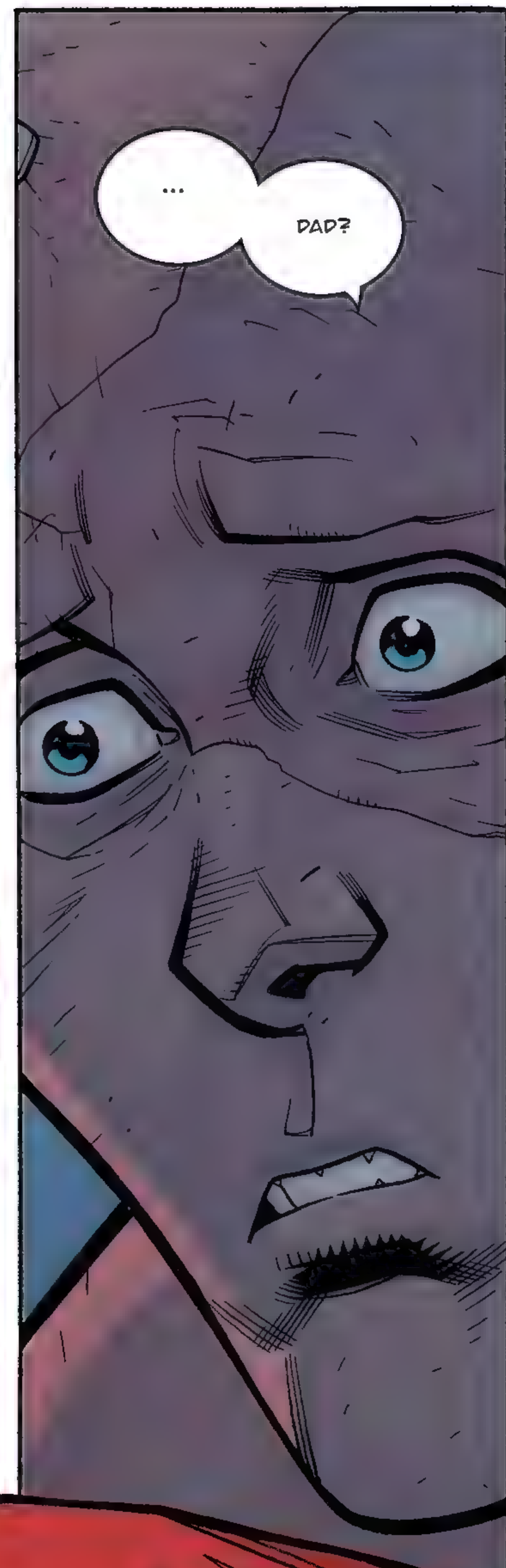
YOU
RAISED ME
WITH HUMANITY...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE
TO. YOU COULD
HAVE TAUGHT ME
THE VILTRUMITE
WAYS FROM
DAY ONE.



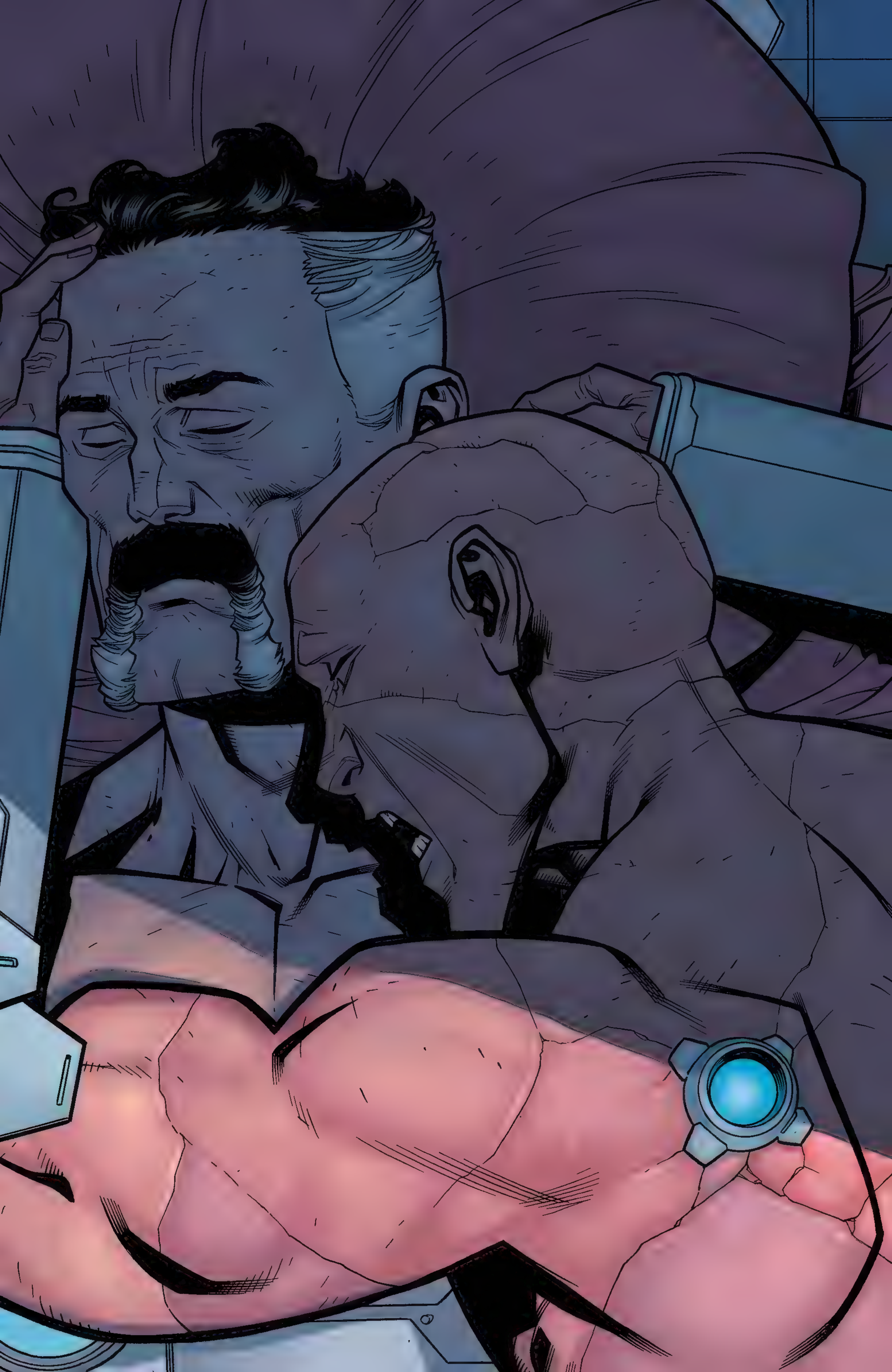
THE GOOD
YOU HAVE
BROUGHT TO THE
VILTRUMITES... IT
STARTED WITH
YOU. IT'S
ALREADY THERE,
AND IT'S
GROWING.

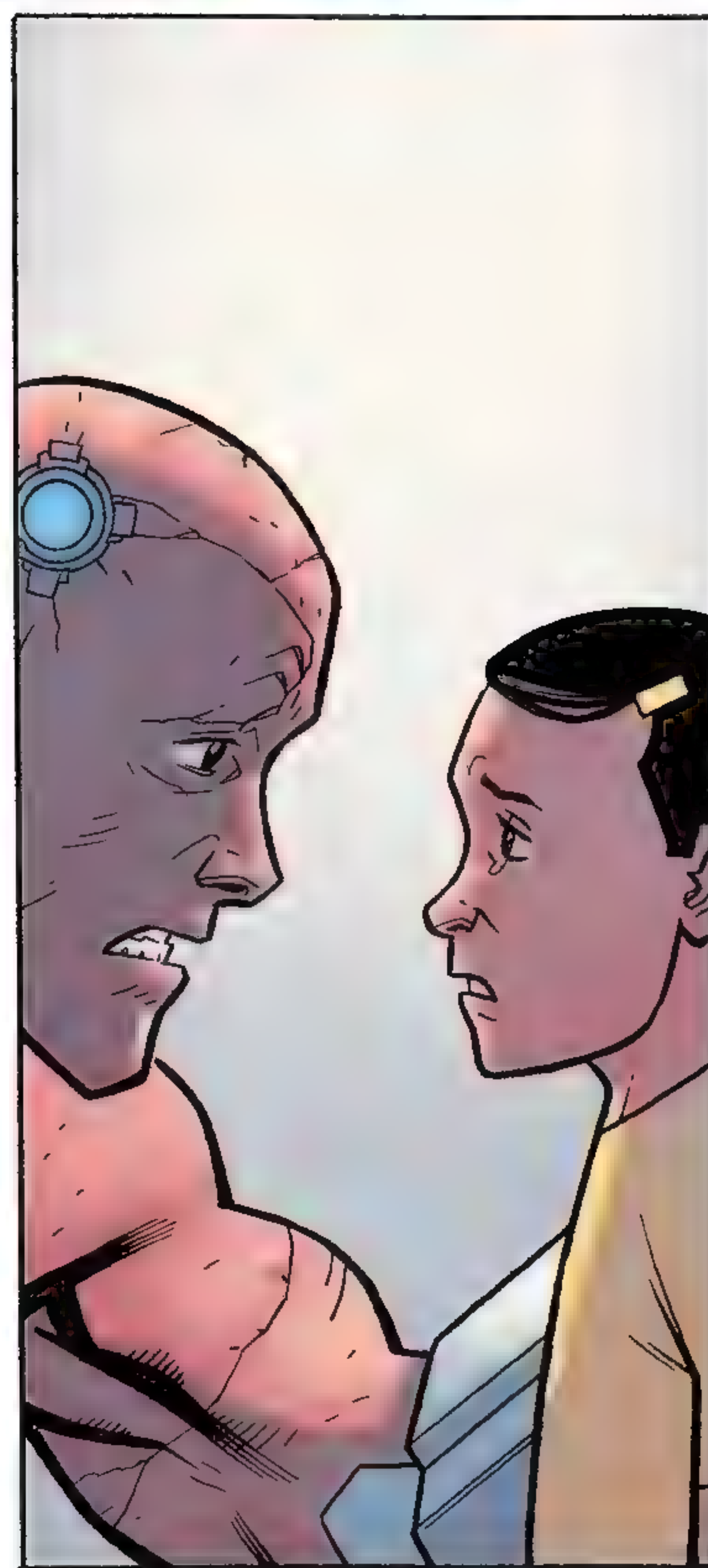
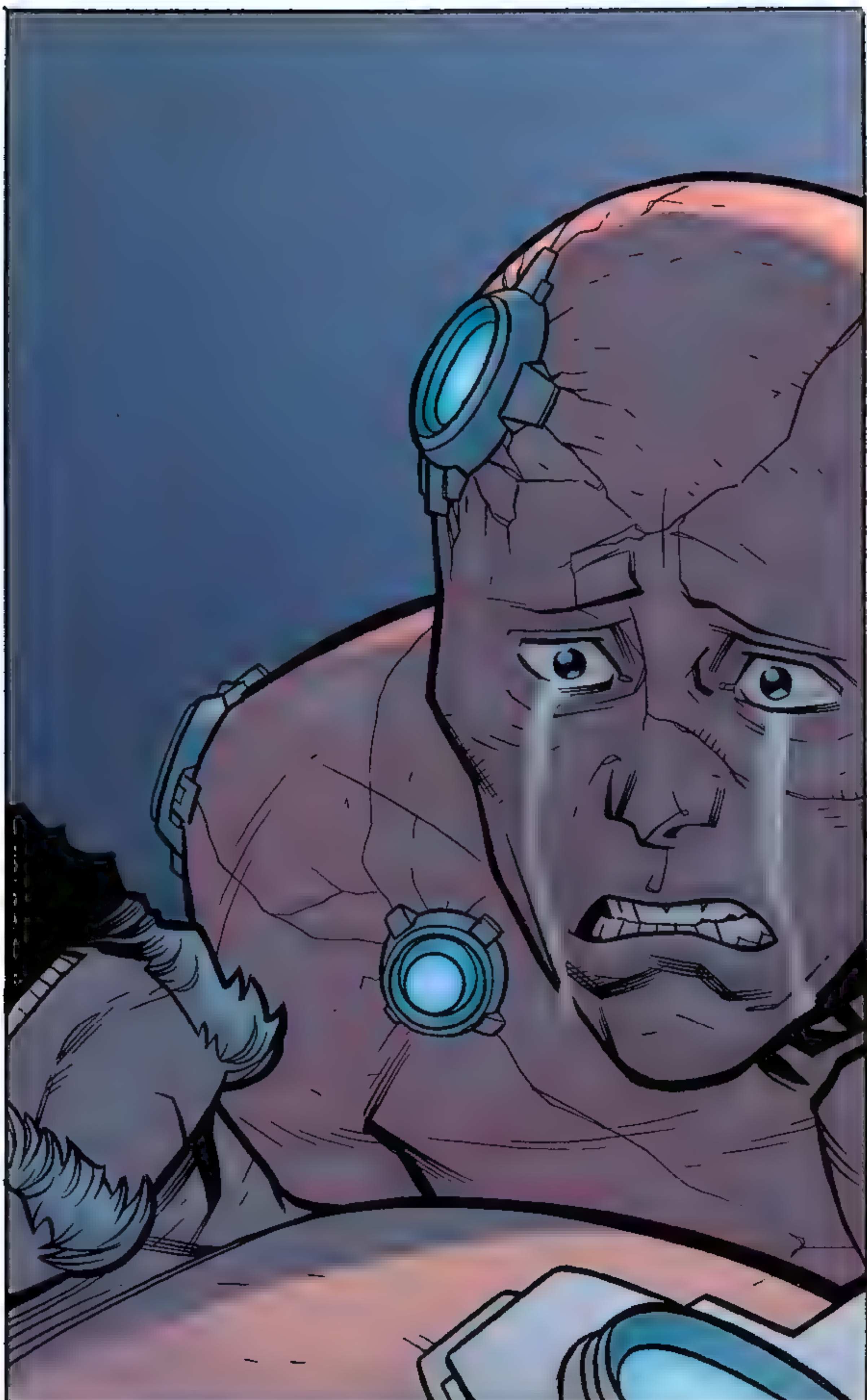


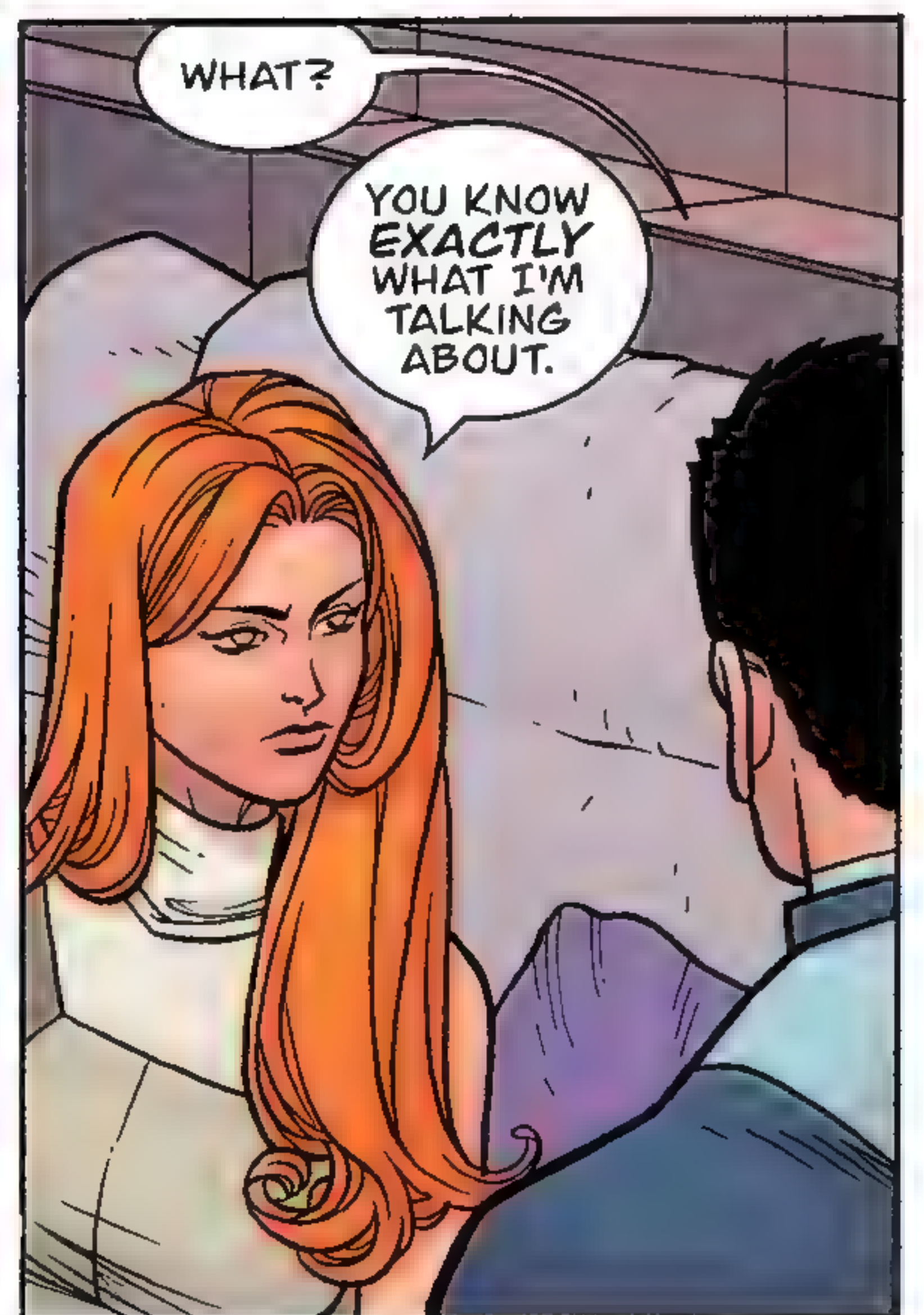
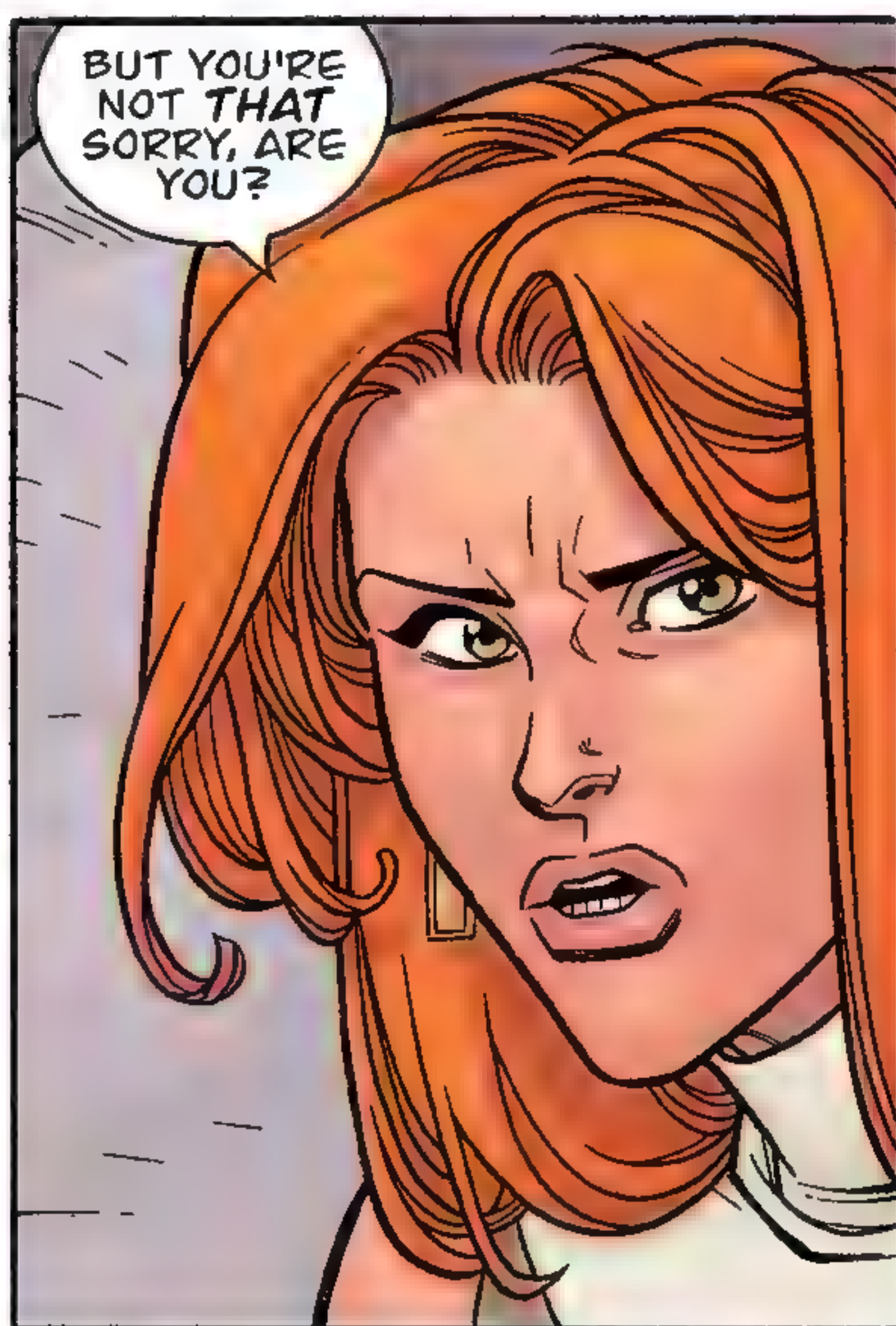
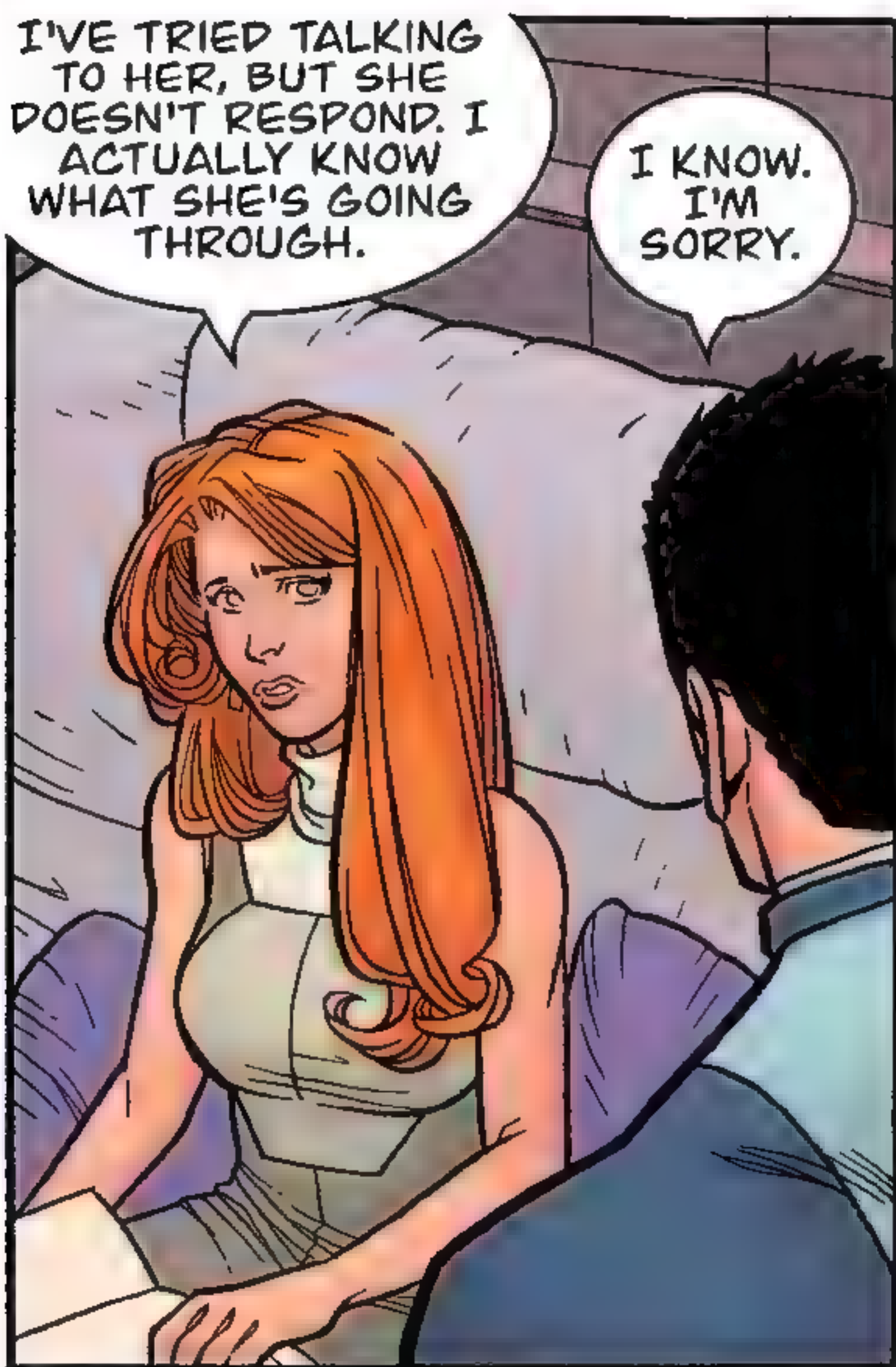
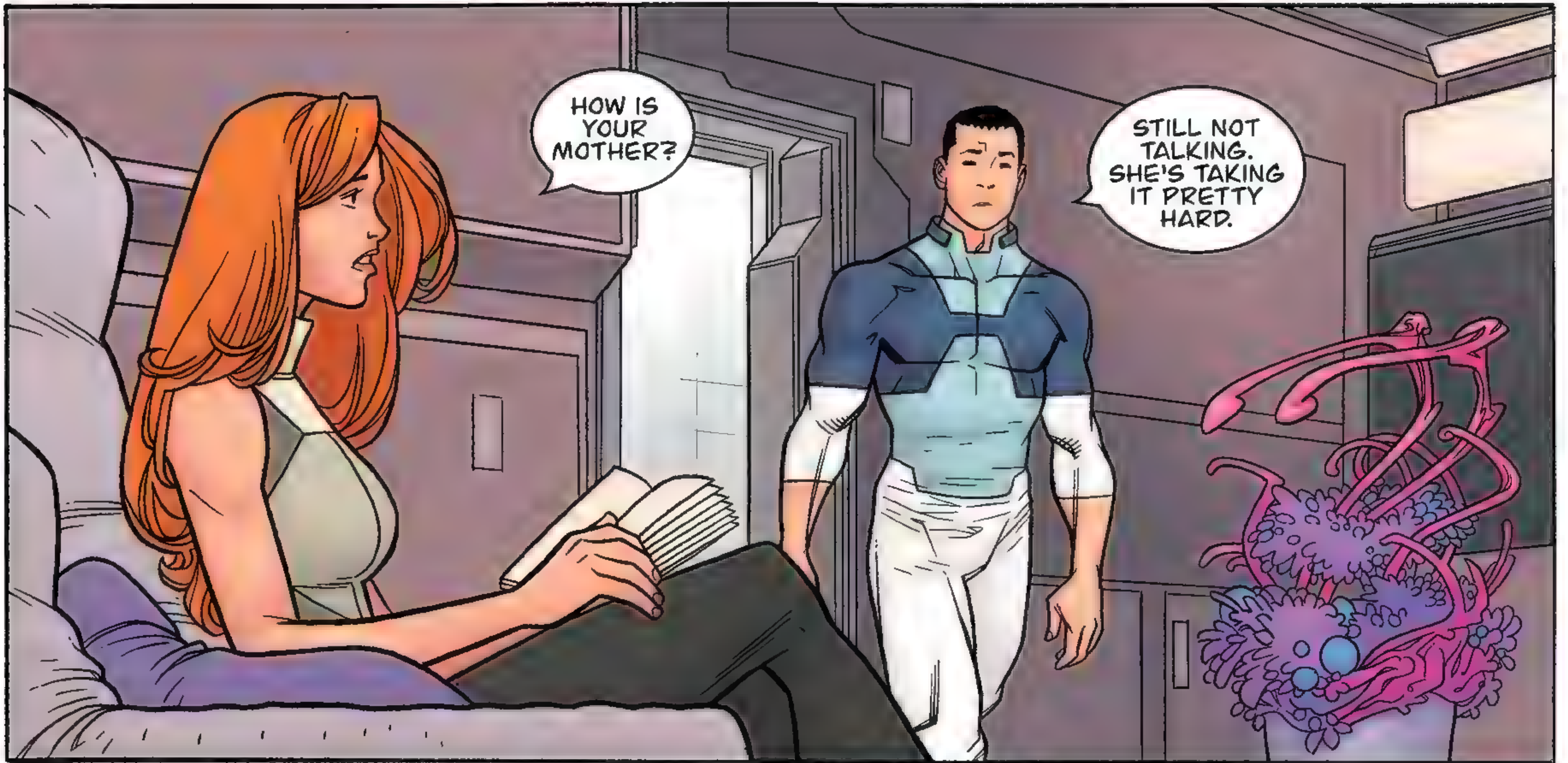
IF WE CAN
CHANGE AS
A PEOPLE...
IT'S YOU WHO
SHOWED US
THE WAY.
YOU--

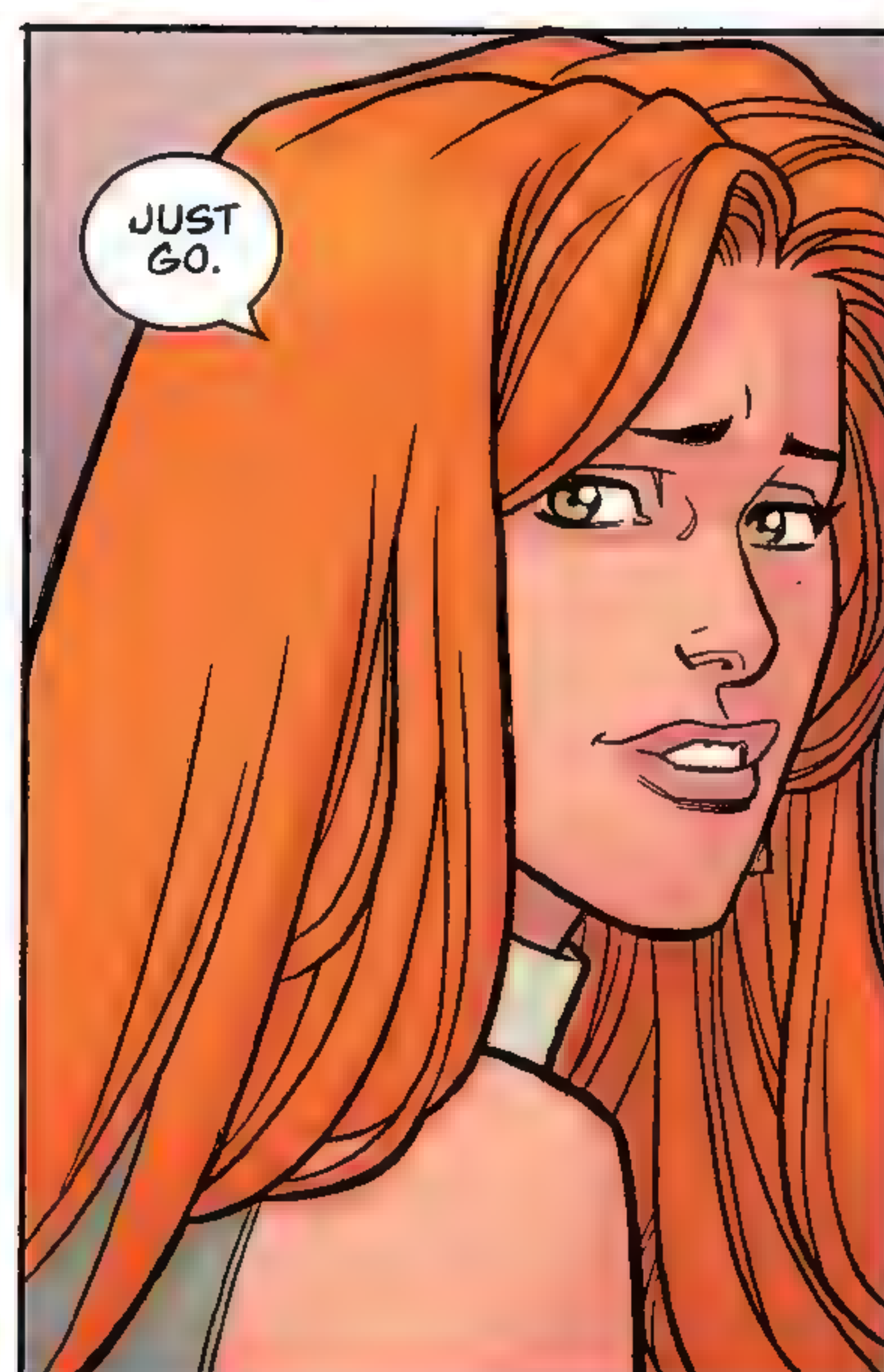
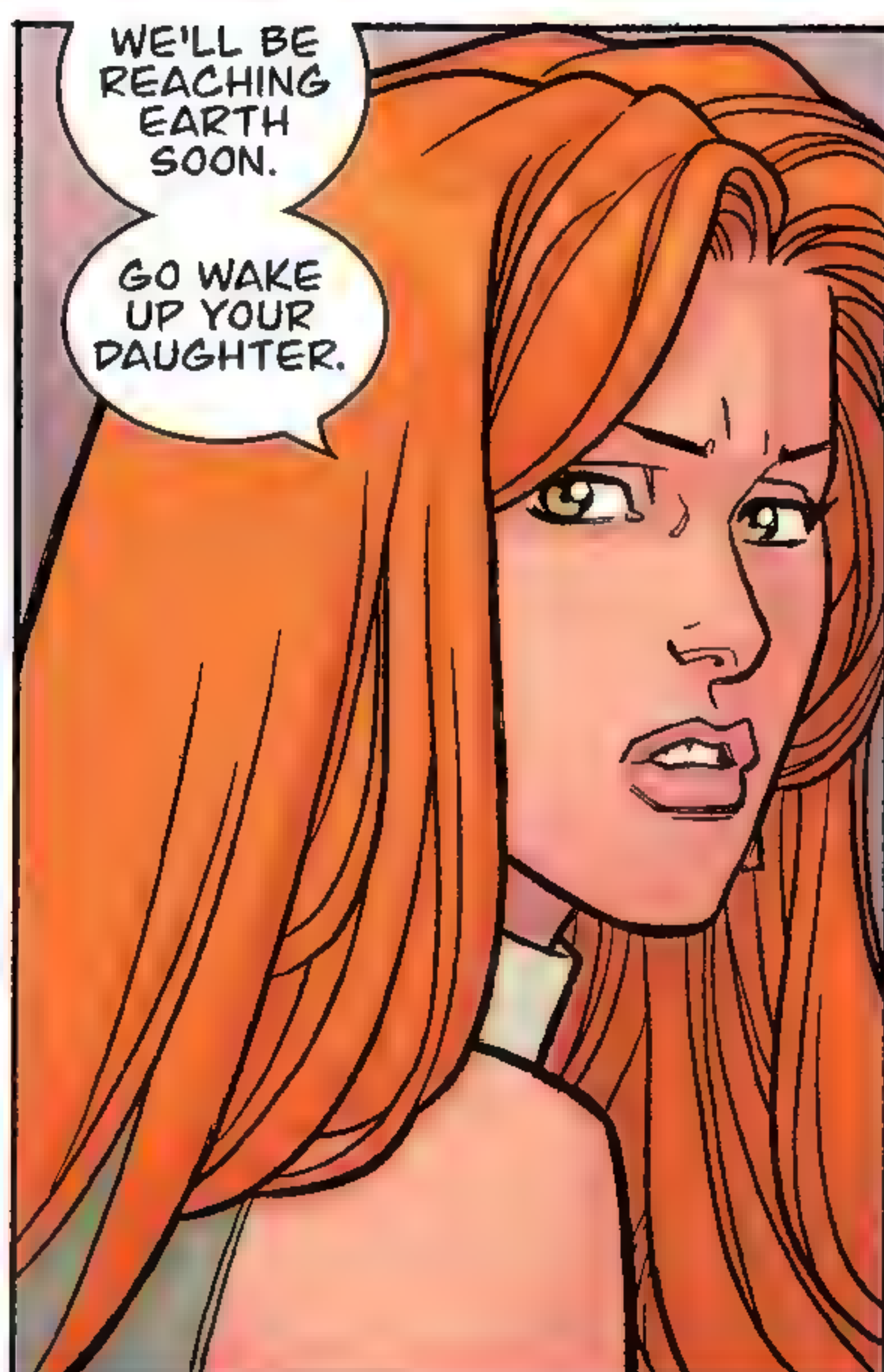
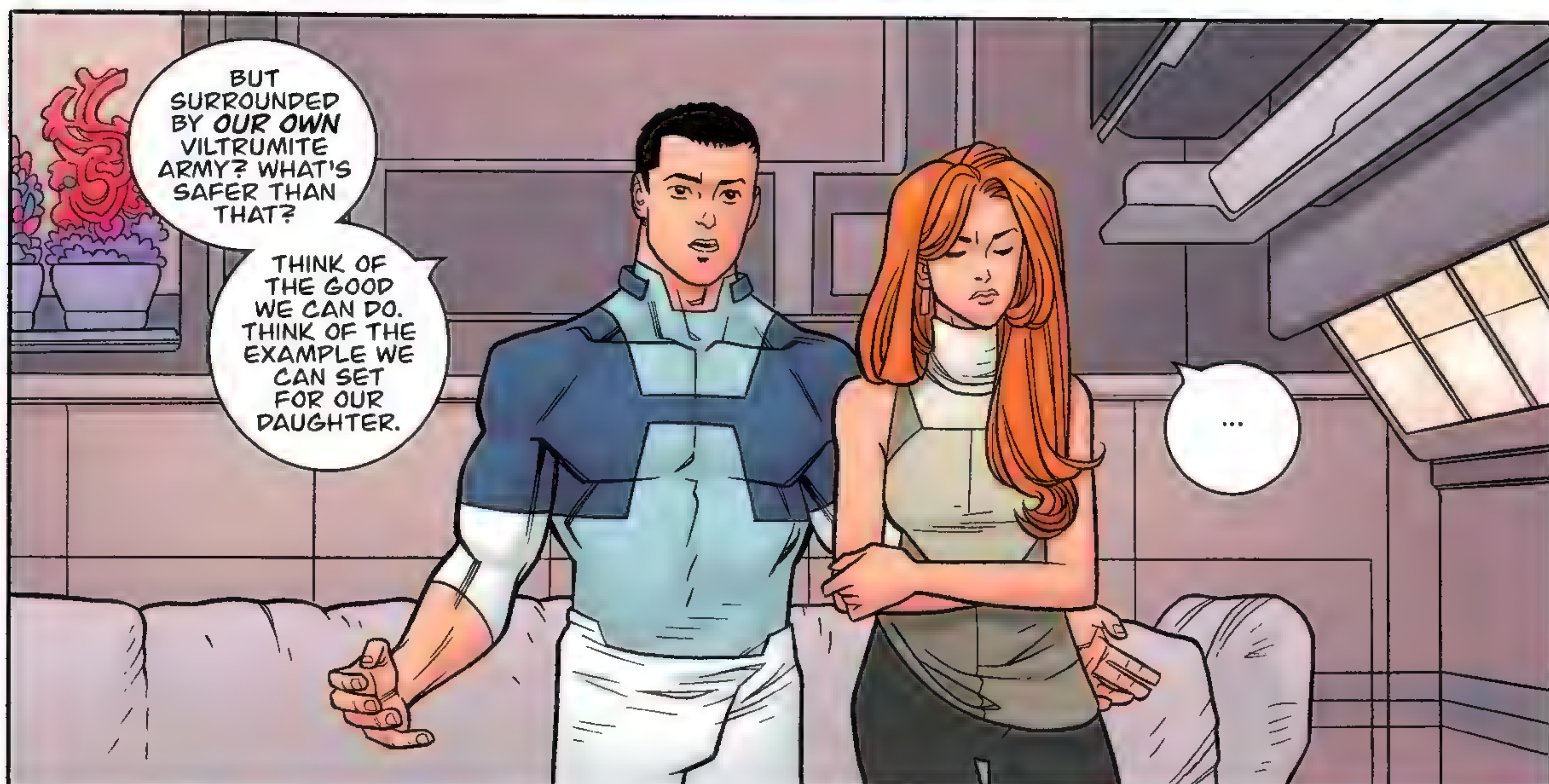
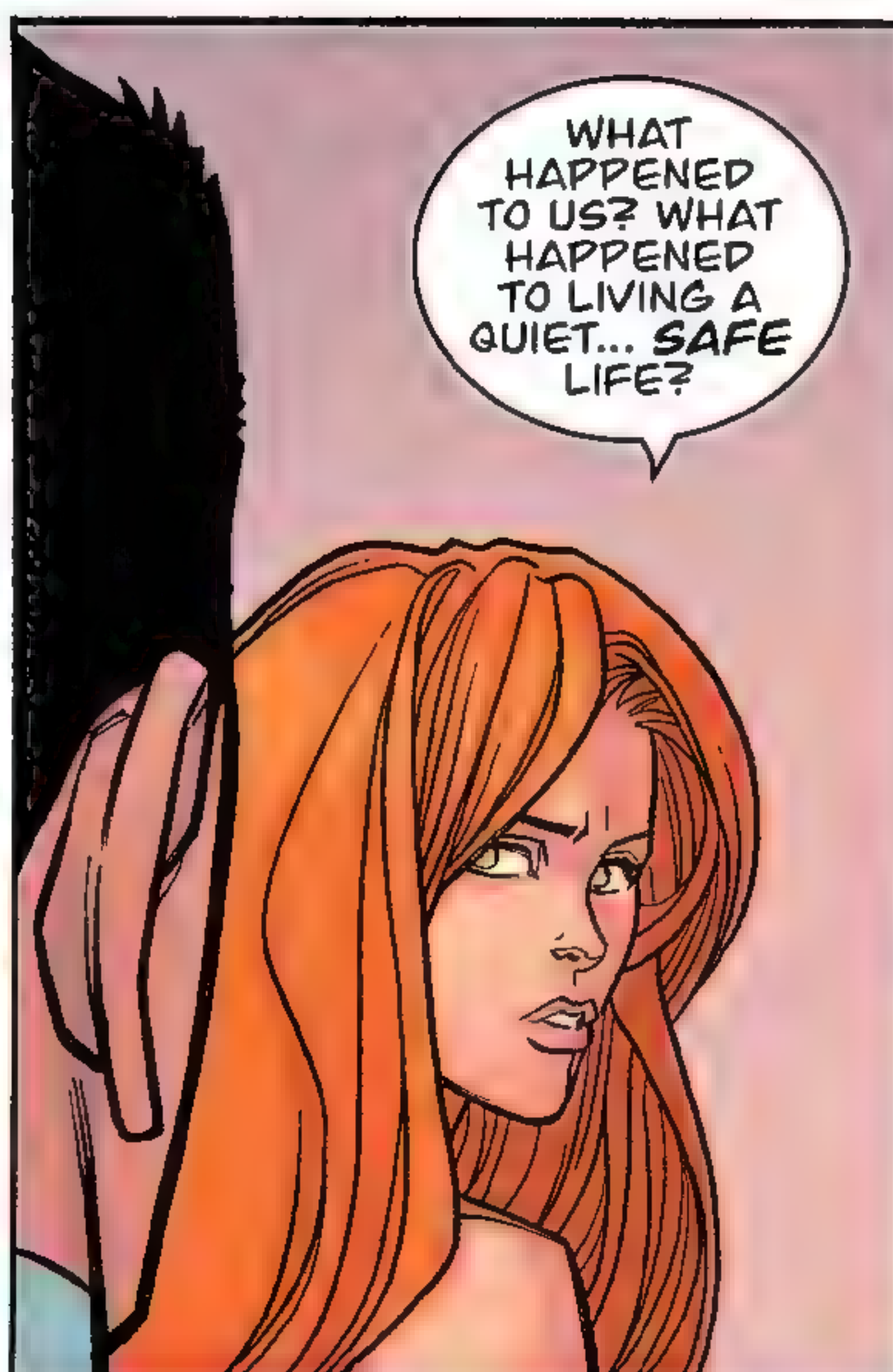


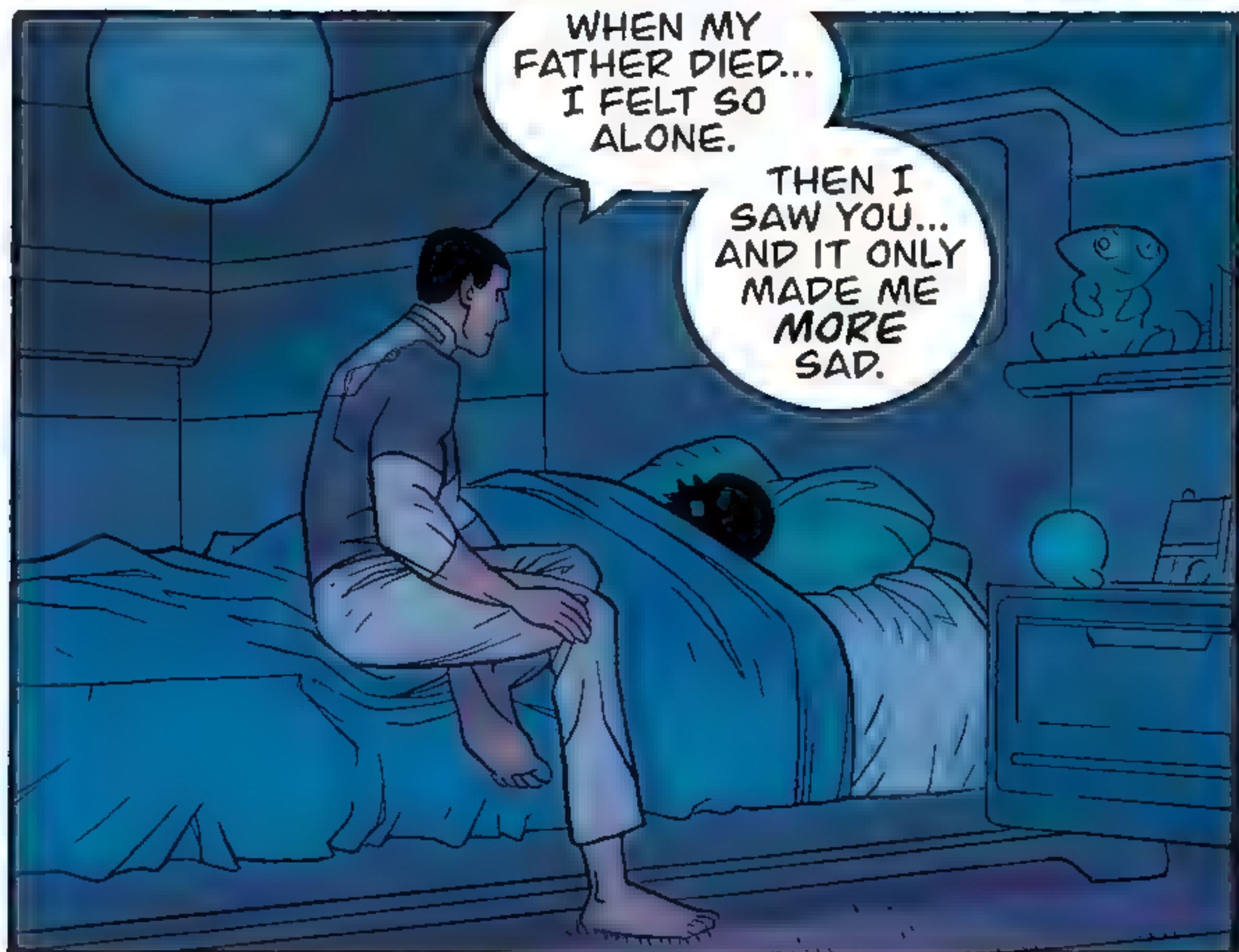
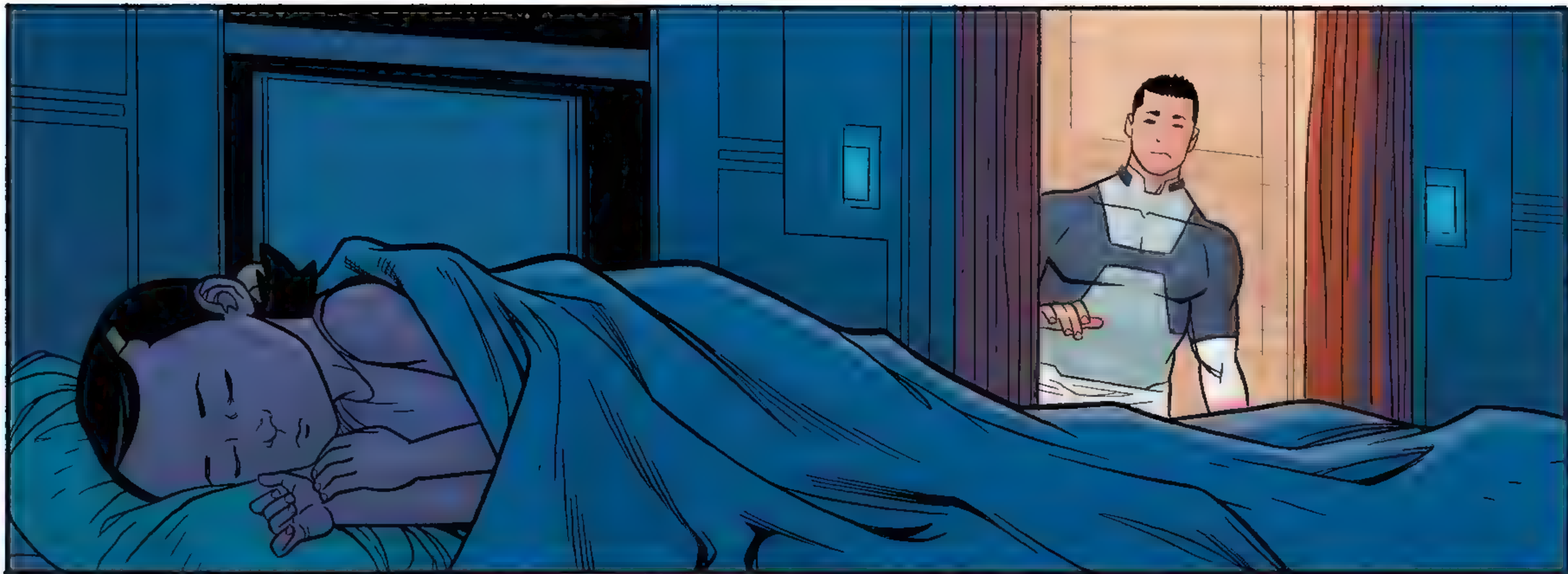
...
DAD?

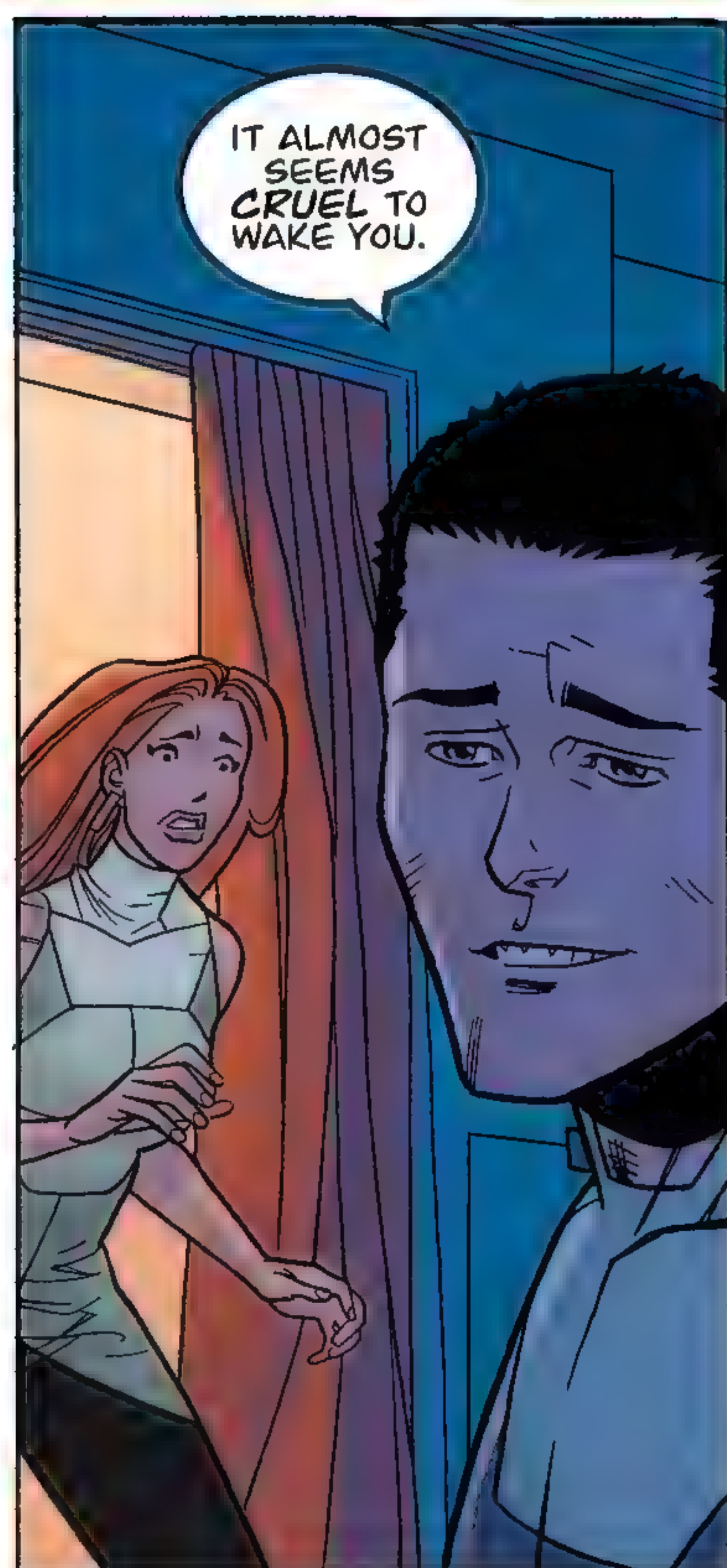
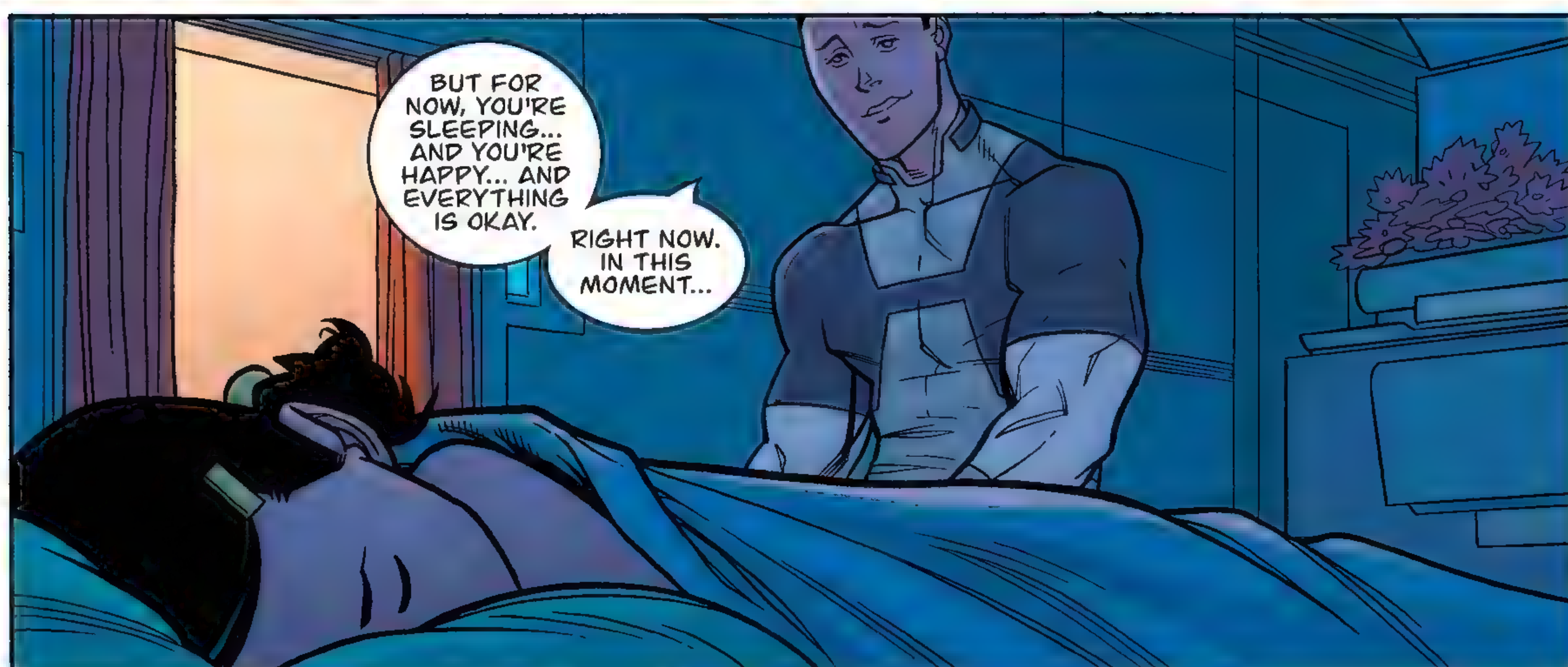










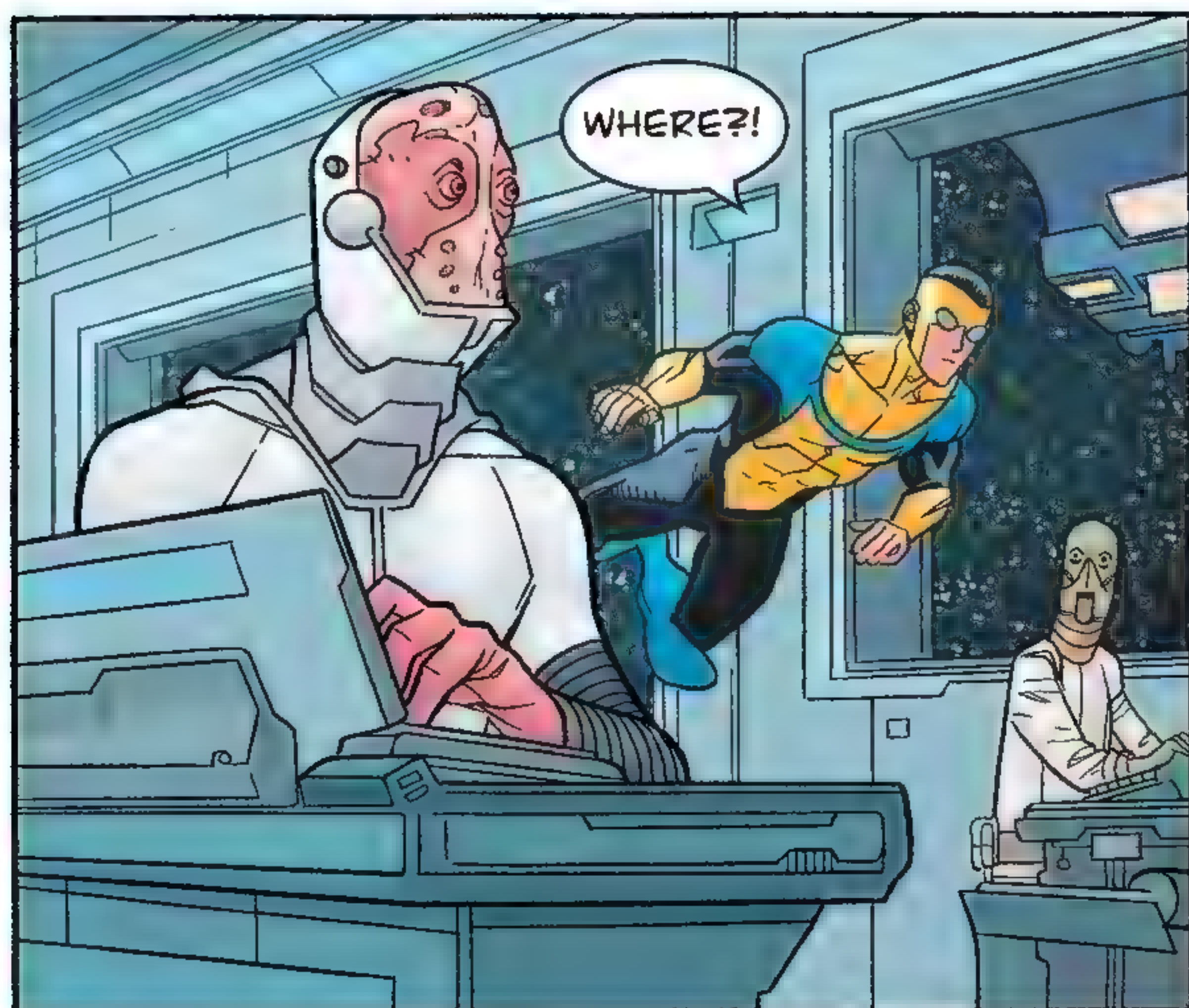
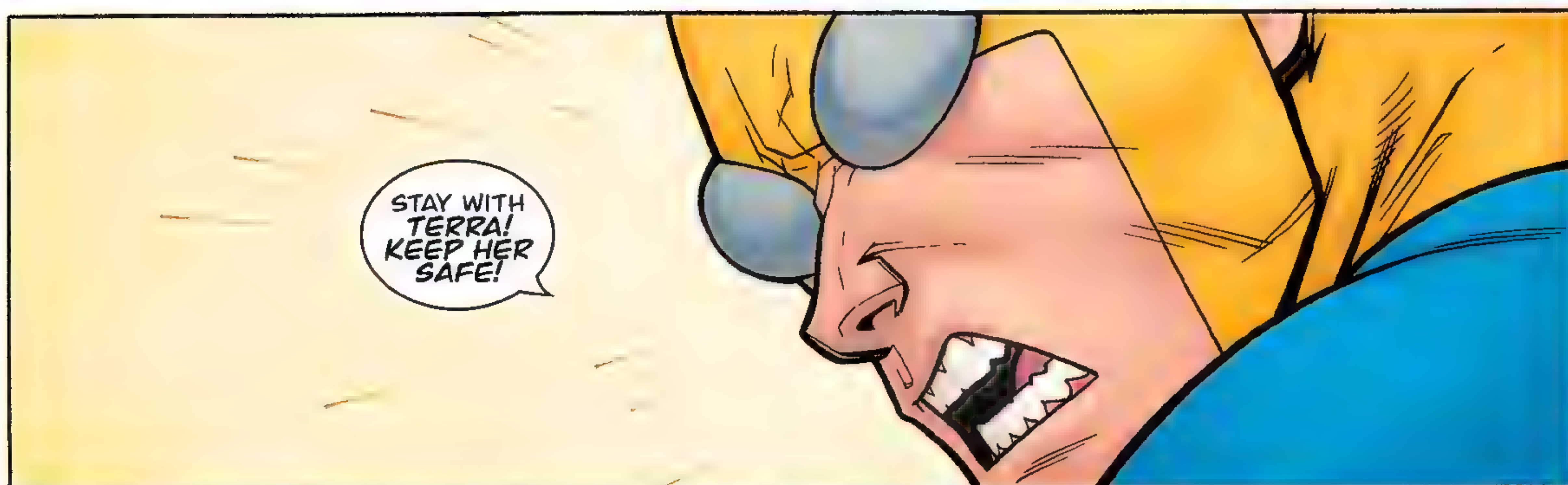
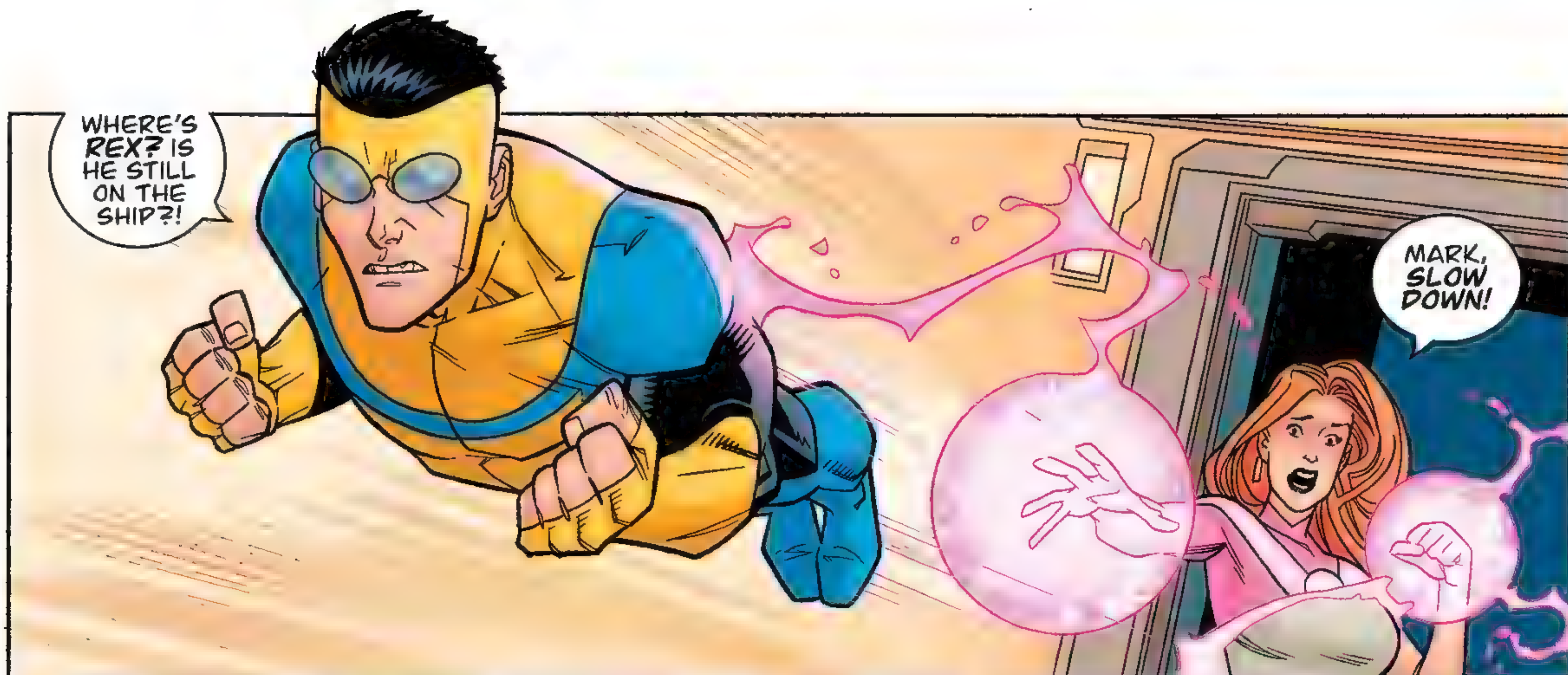


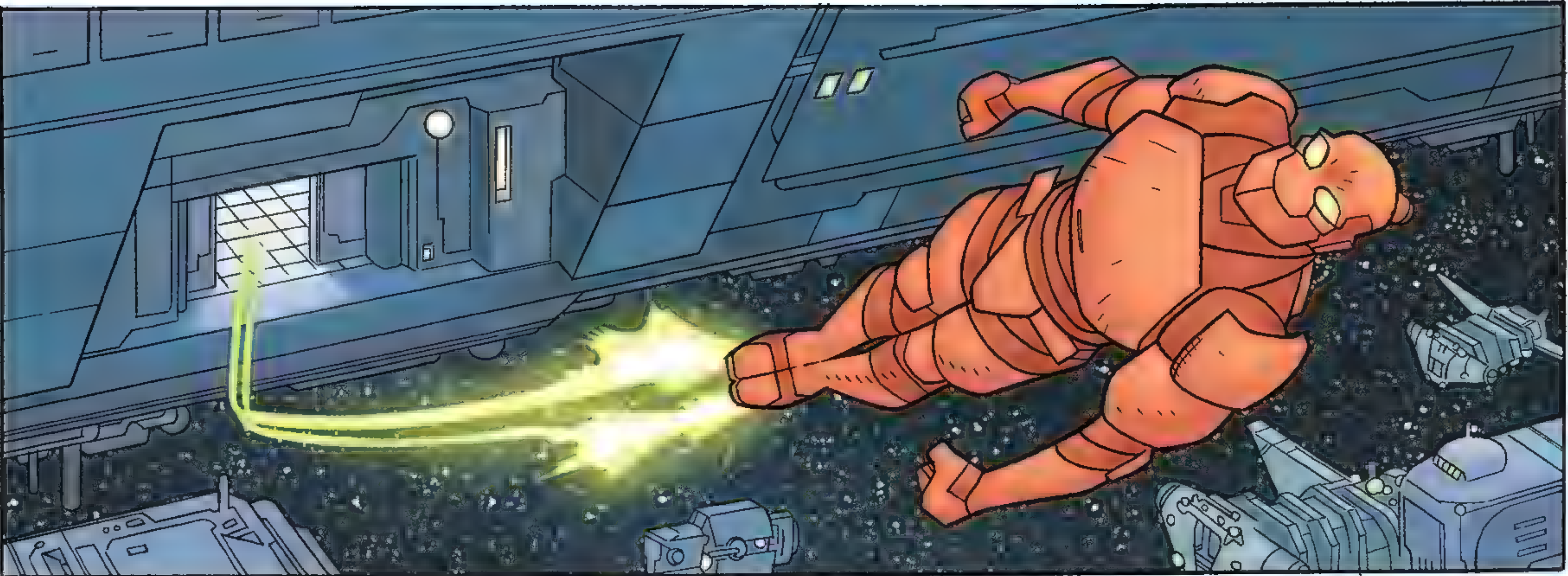




CHAPTER FOUR









WHY
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS?!

WITH YOUR FATHER
DEAD, YOU ARE GOING
TO ASSUME COMMAND
OF THE VILTRUMITES.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER
OF TIME BEFORE
YOU TURN THEM
AGAINST ME.



I HAD
NO CHOICE
BUT TO
STRIKE
FIRST.



I ONLY
GATHERED THEIR
OFFSPRING AS A
PRECAUTION.

IF YOUR EFFORTS
AGAINST THRAGG FAILED,
THEY COULD HAVE BEEN
AN ASSET IF THEY
KNEW I'D PROTECT
THEM.

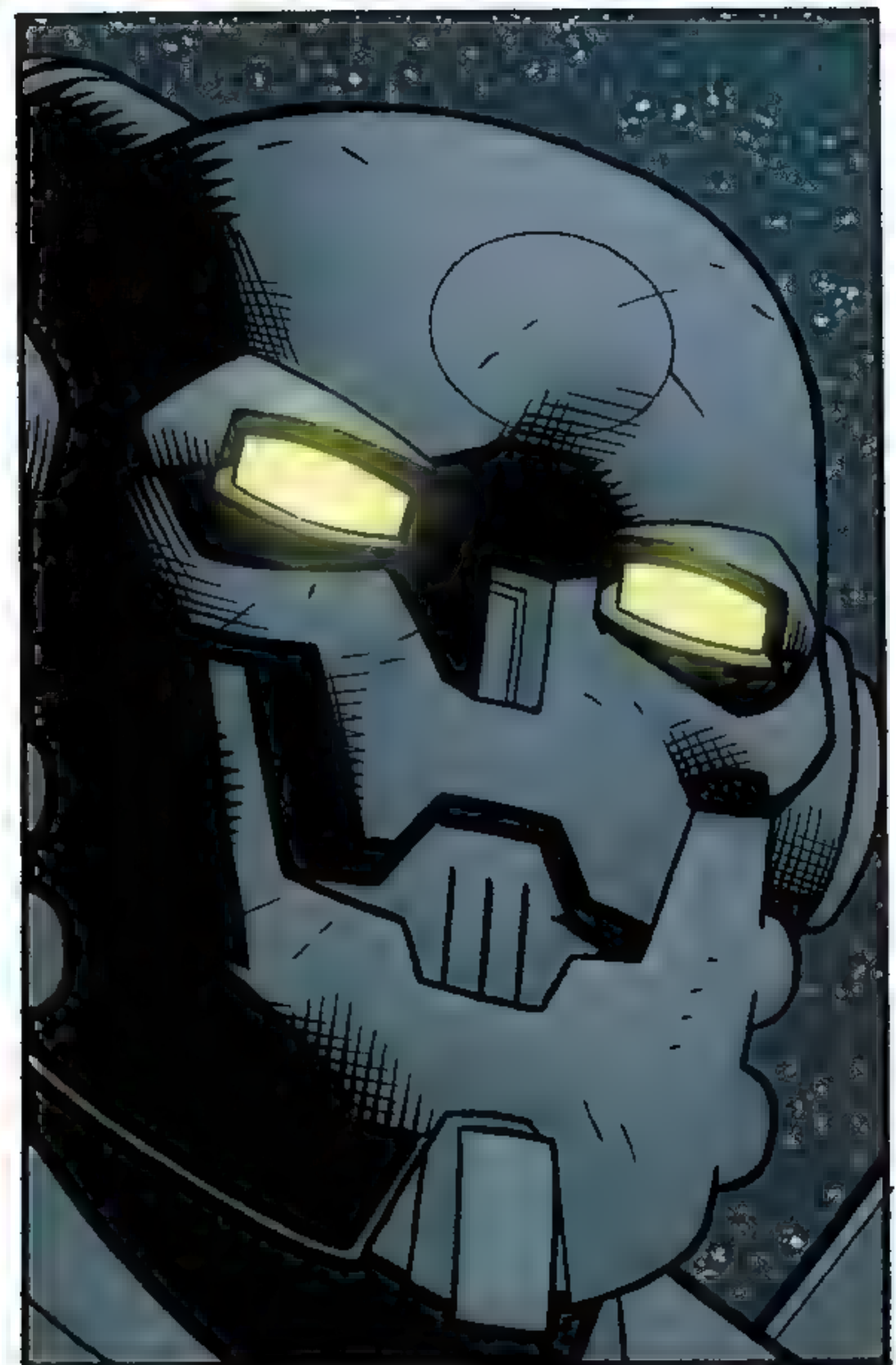
NOW, THEY'RE
A TOOL TO TURN
YOUR ARMY
AGAINST YOU
BEFORE YOU CAN
TURN IT AGAINST
ME.

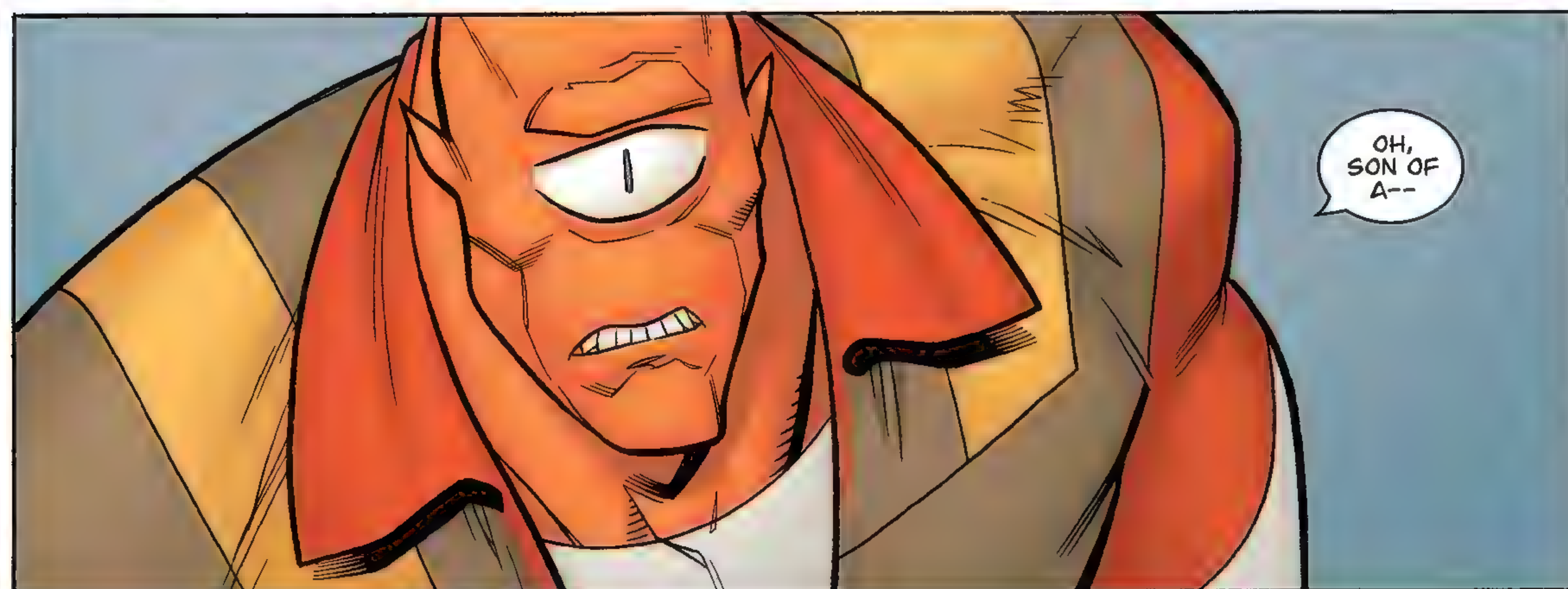
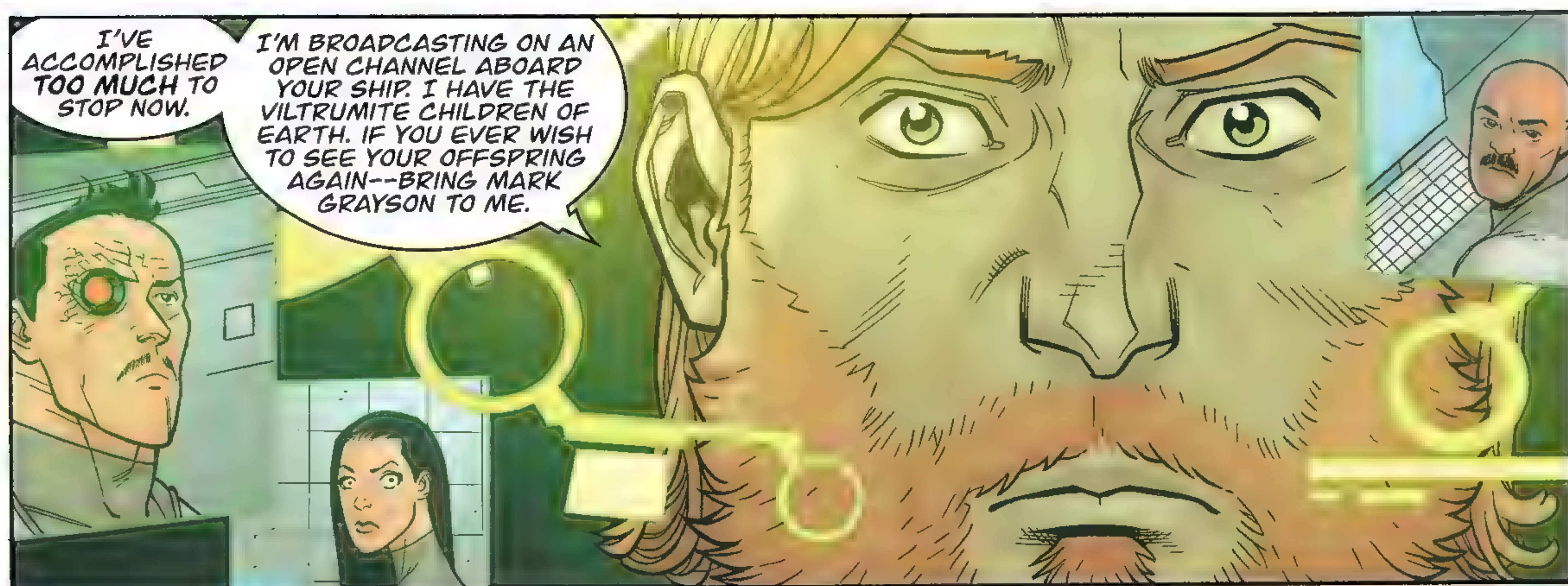


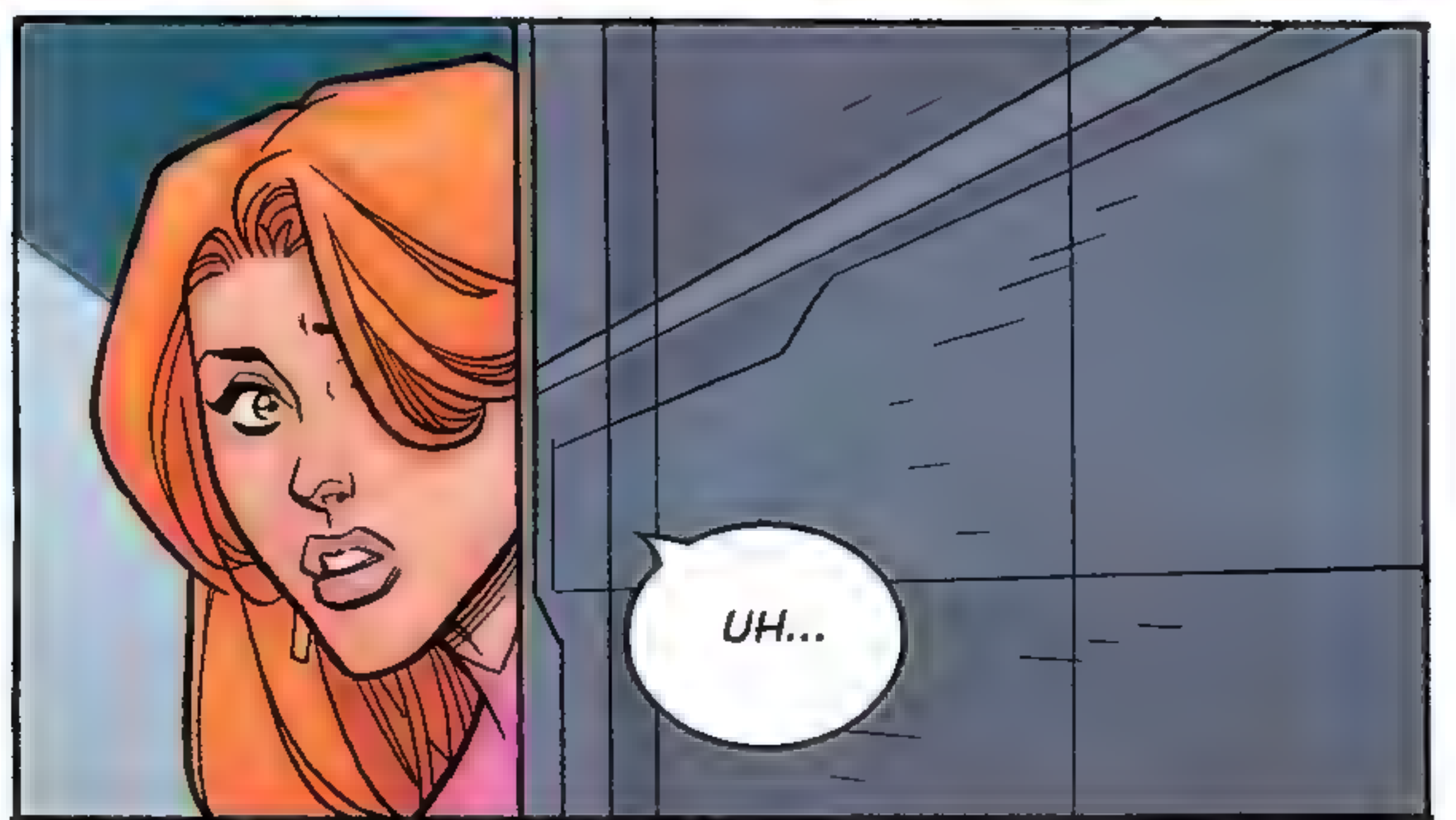
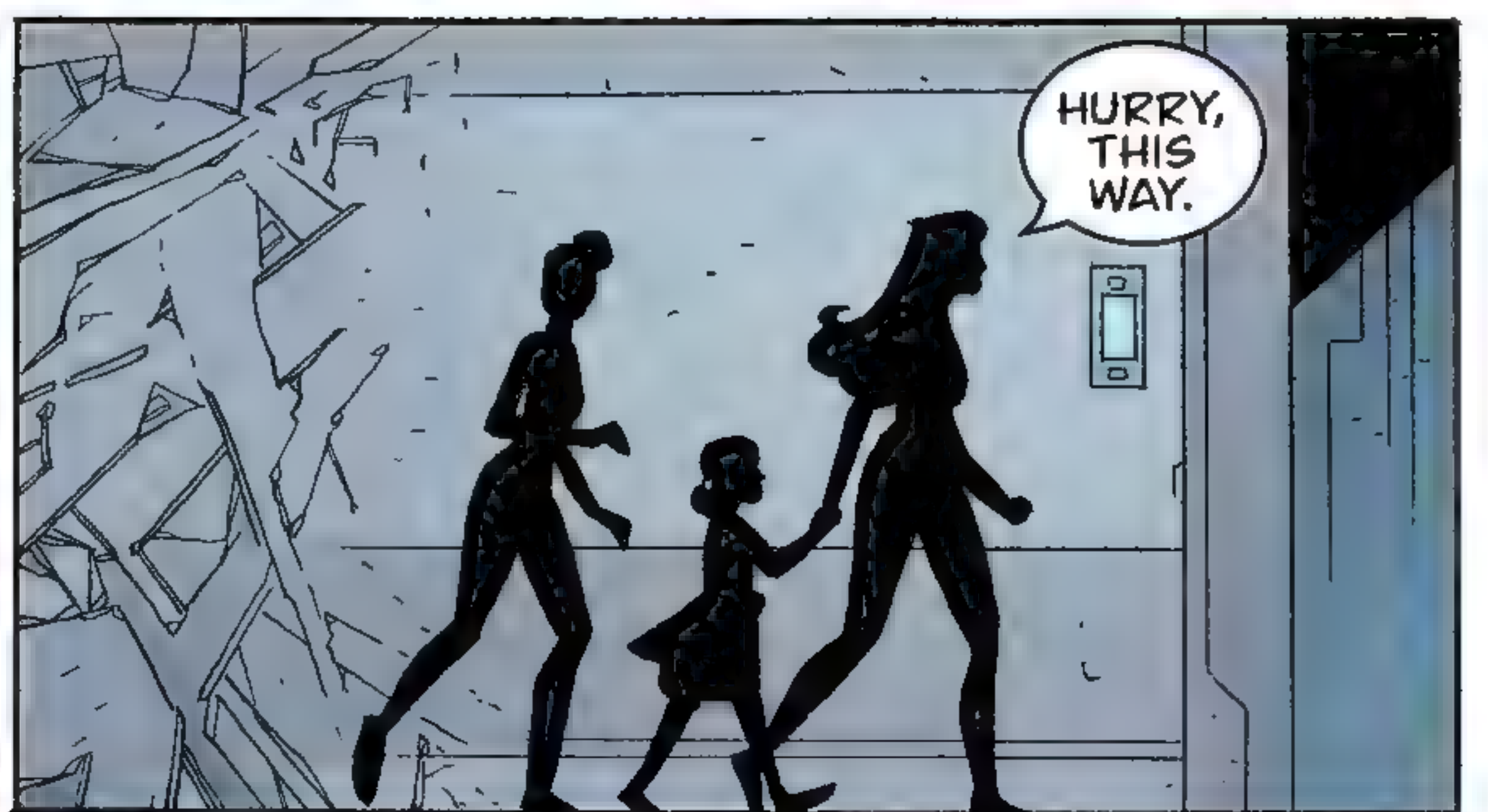
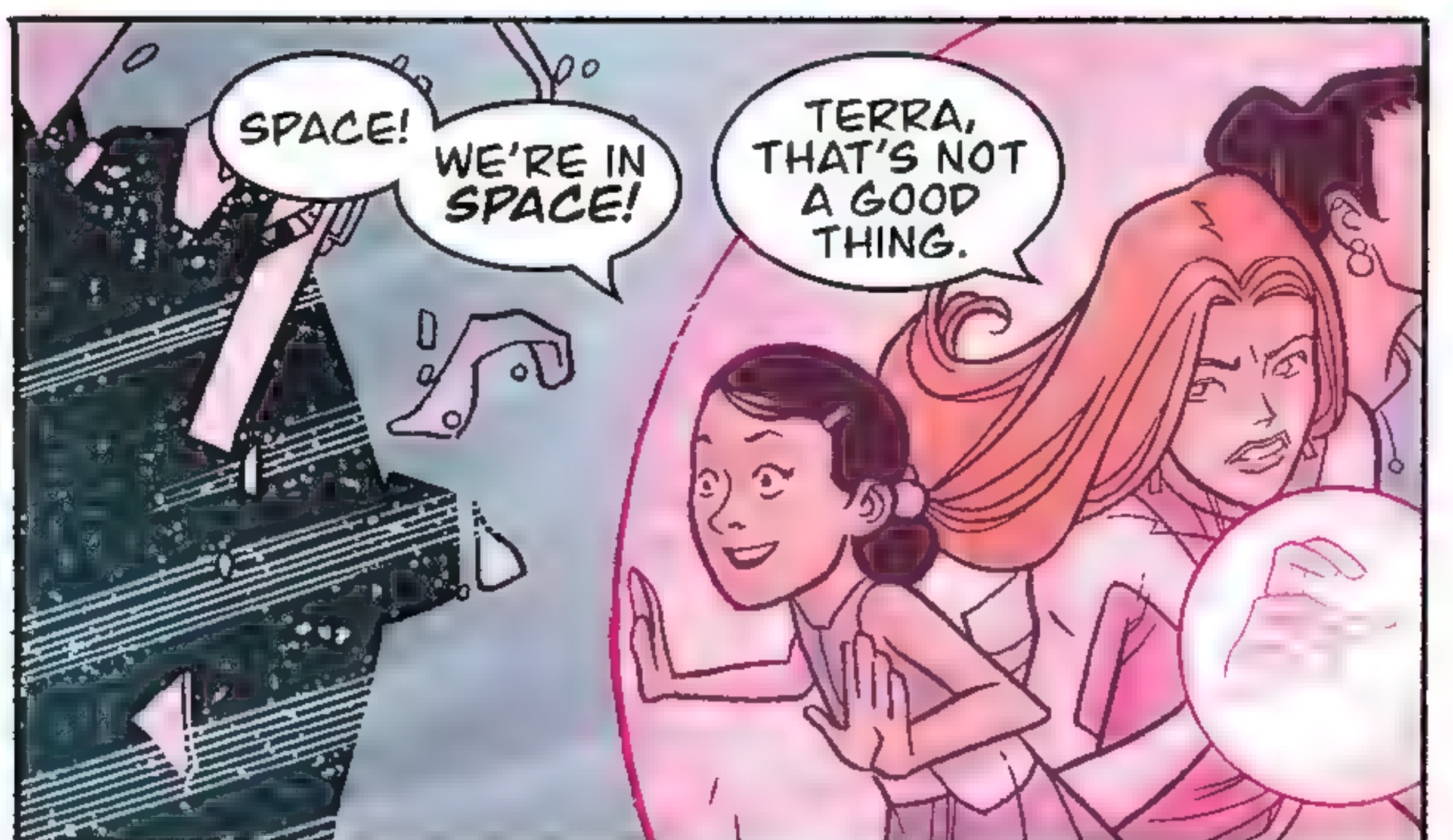
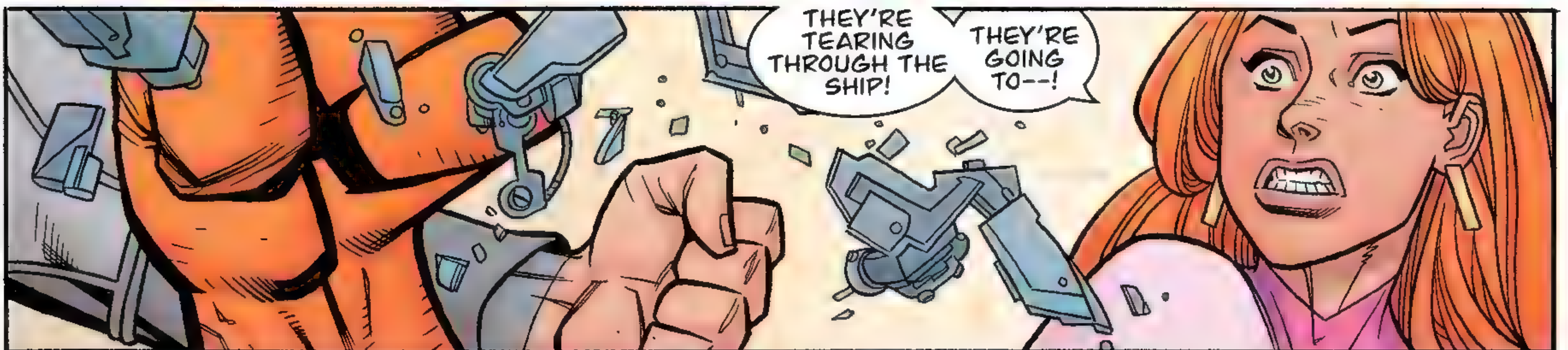
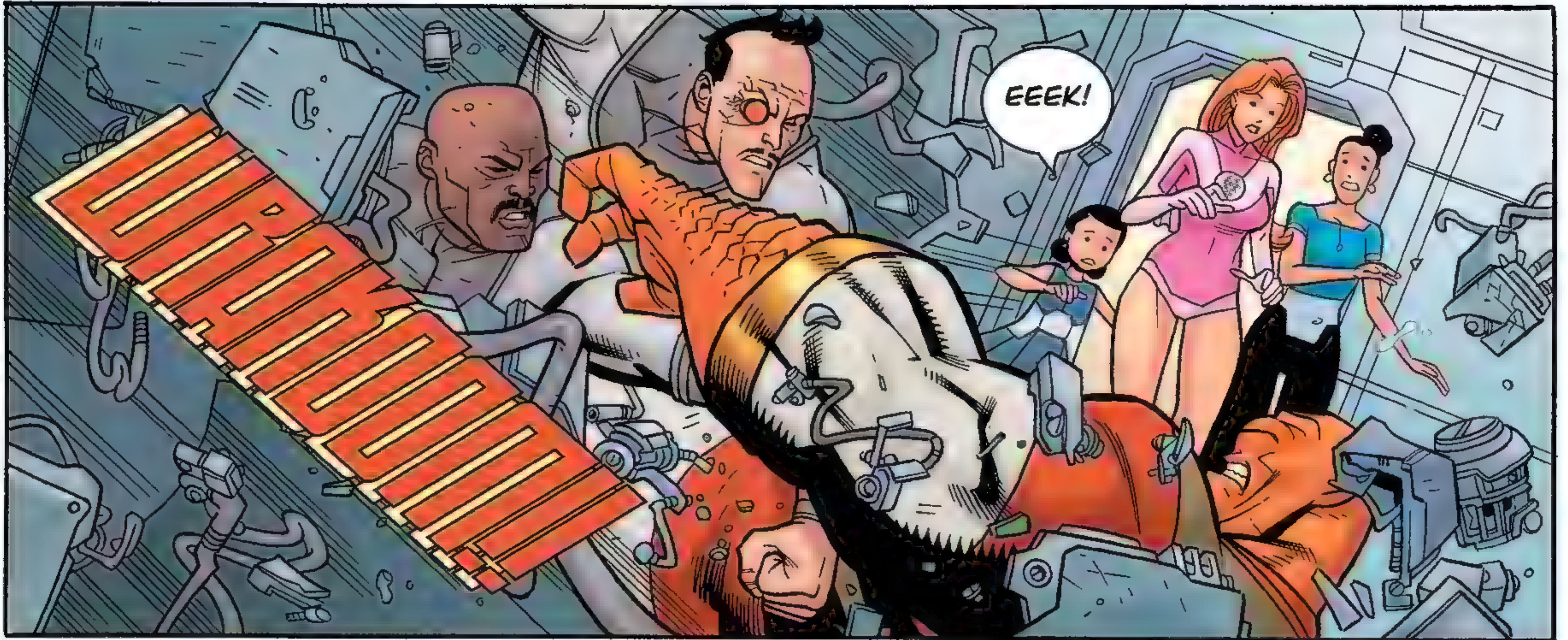
YOU
THOUGHT OF
EVERYTHING---
DIDN'T YOU?

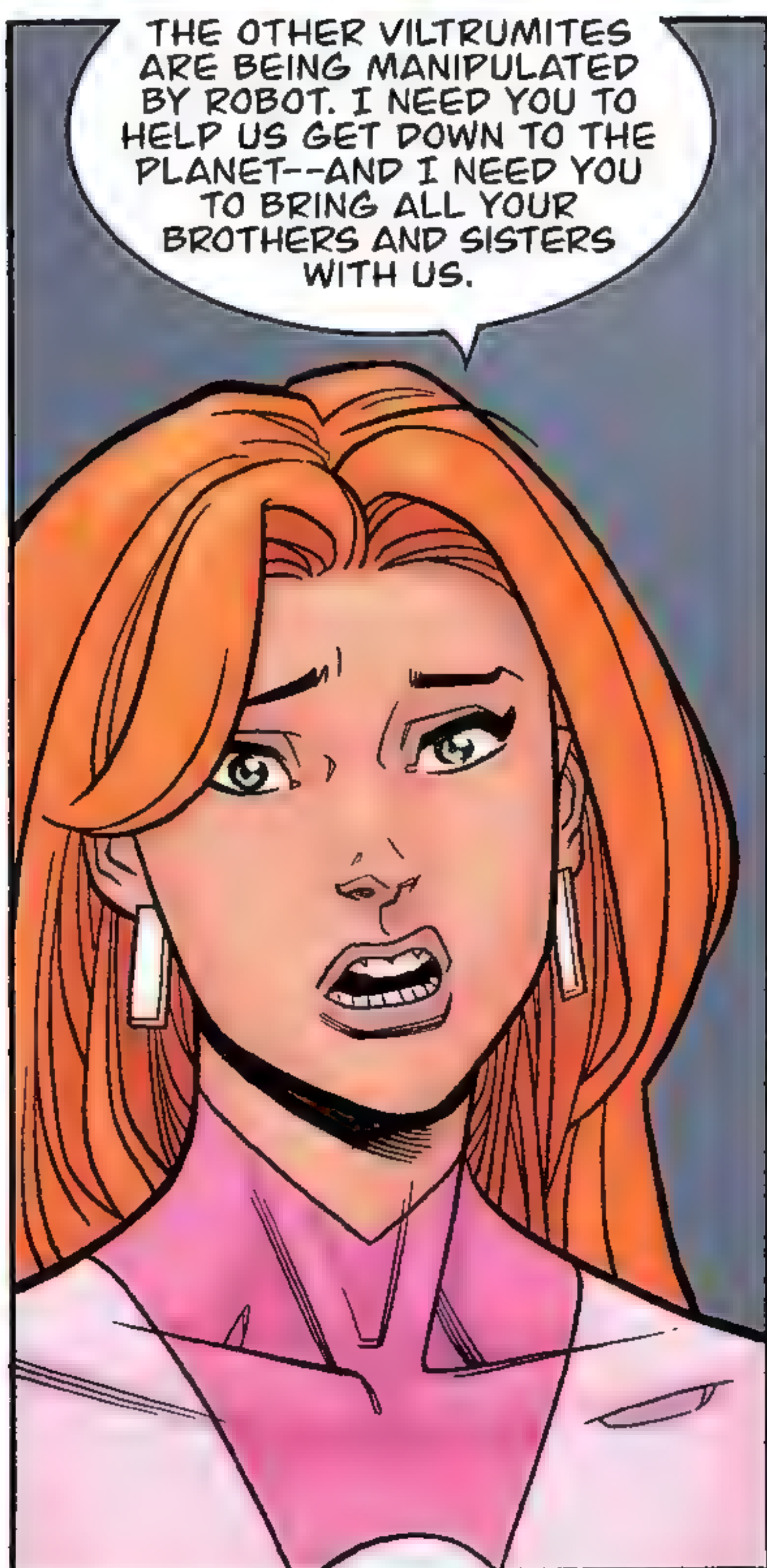
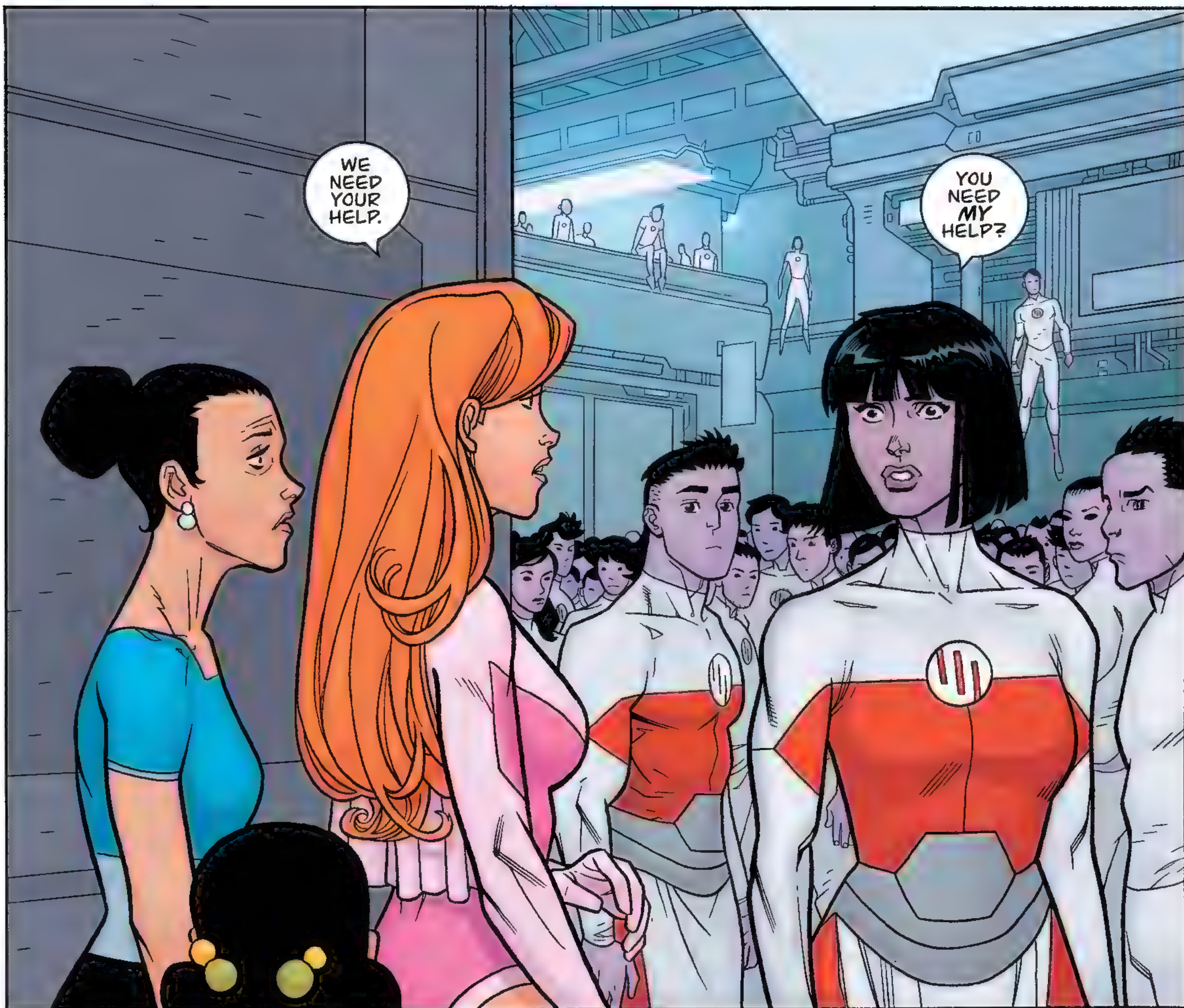


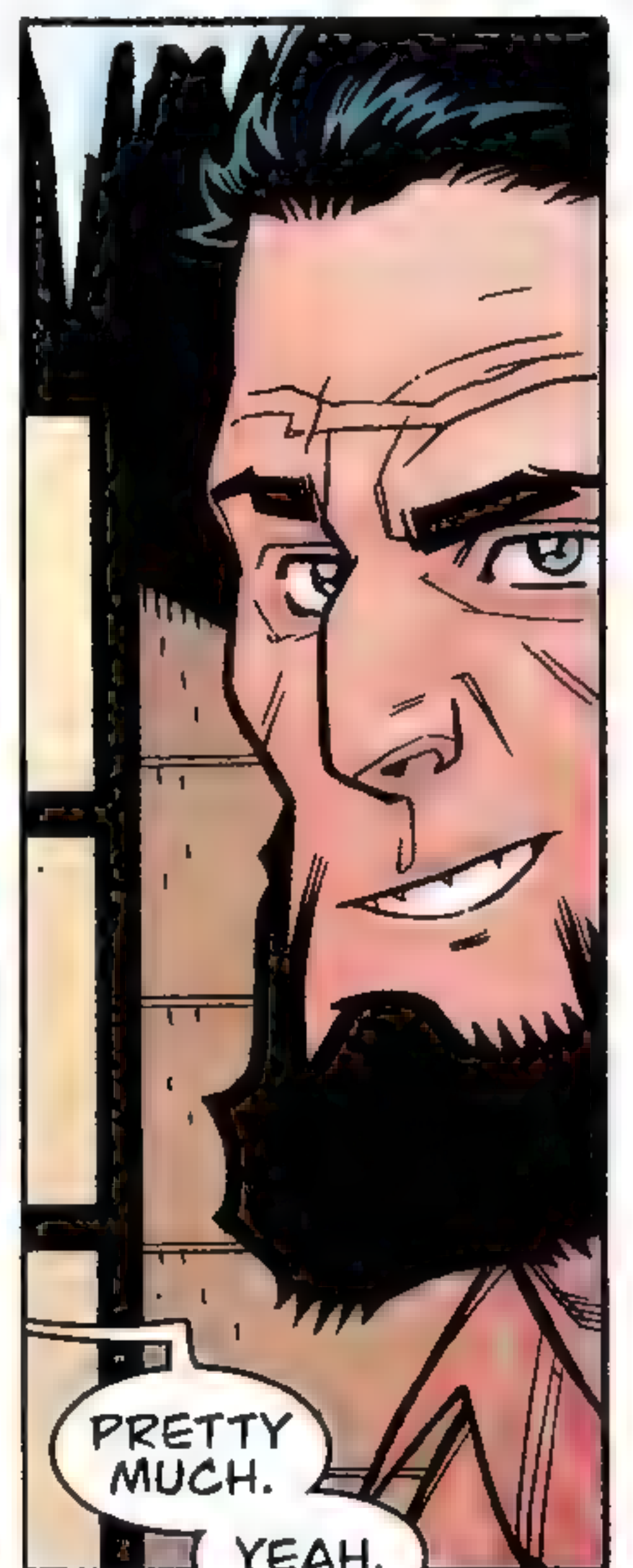
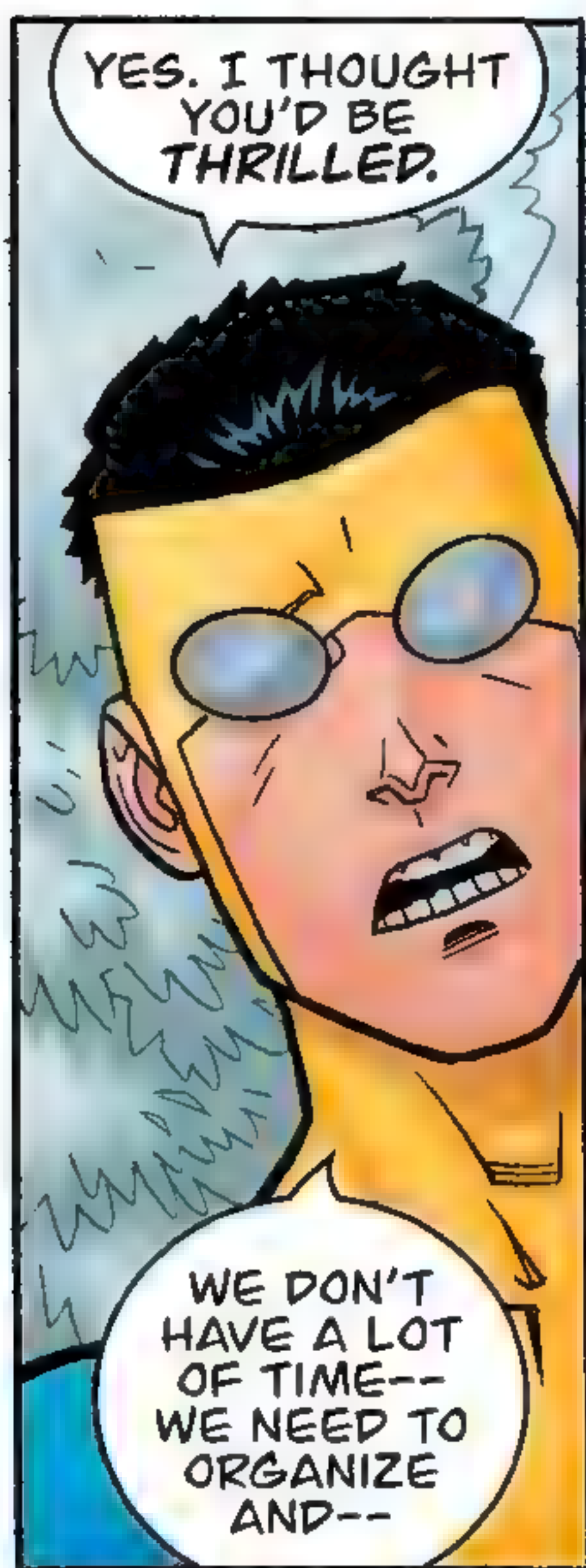
WE'LL
SEE.

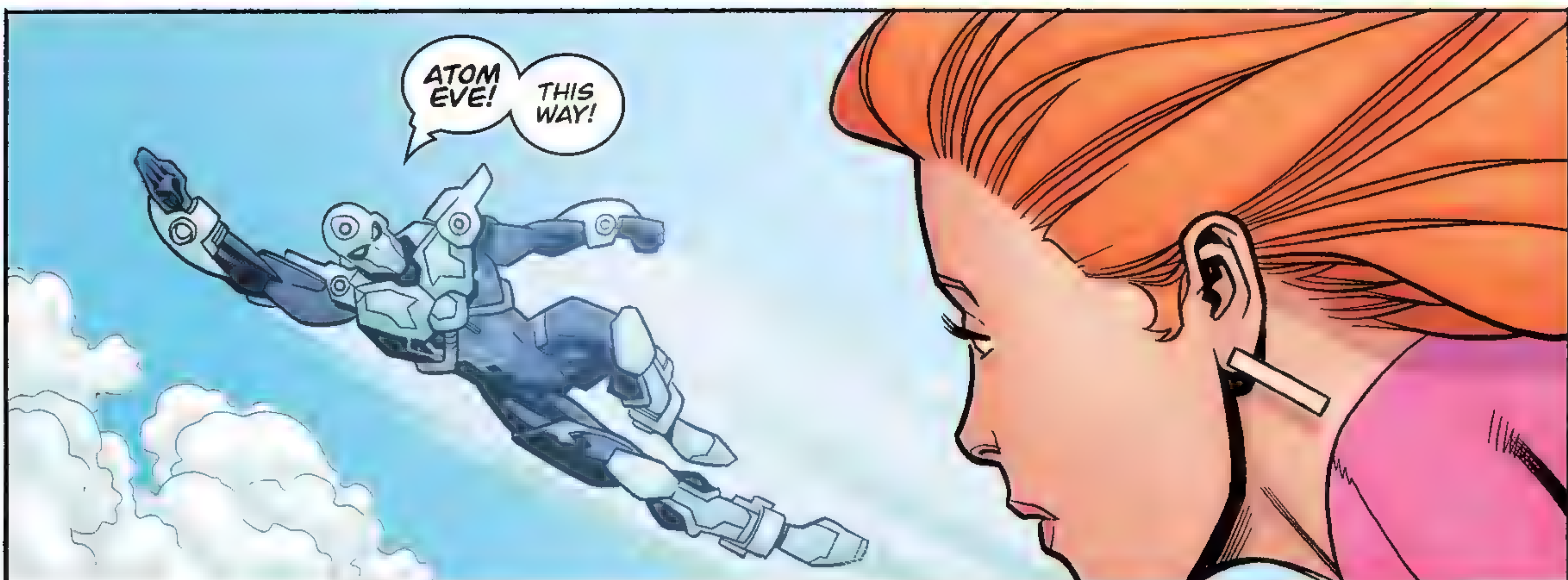
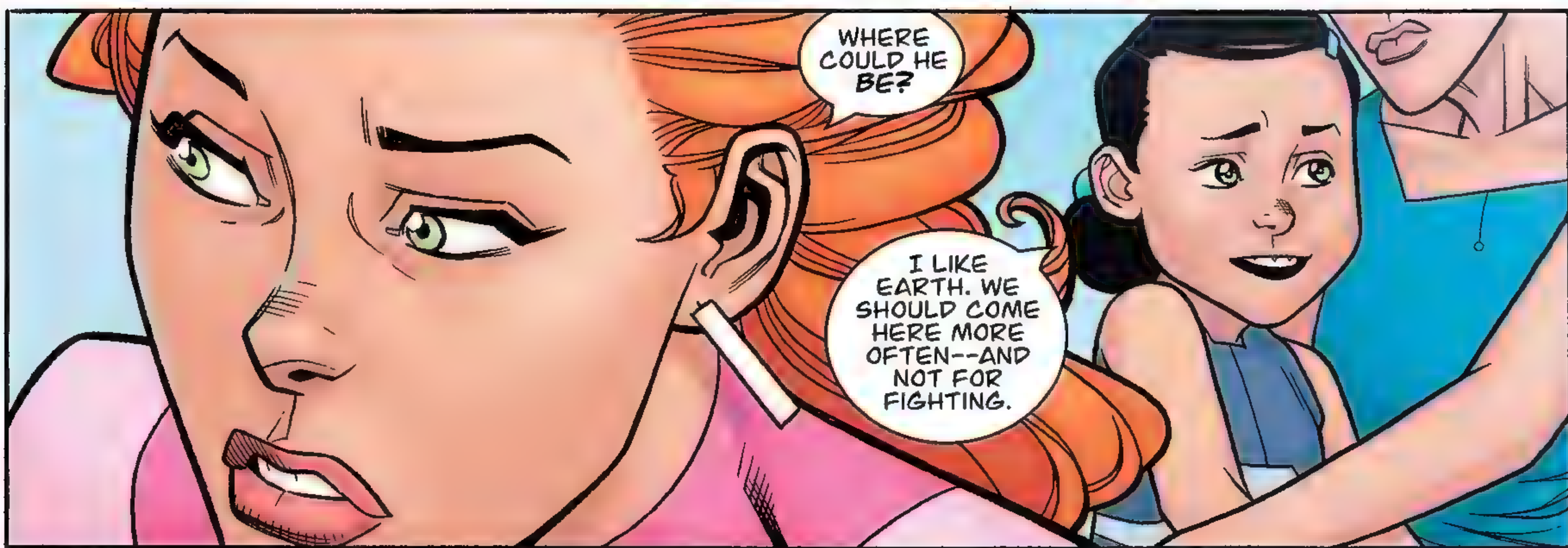
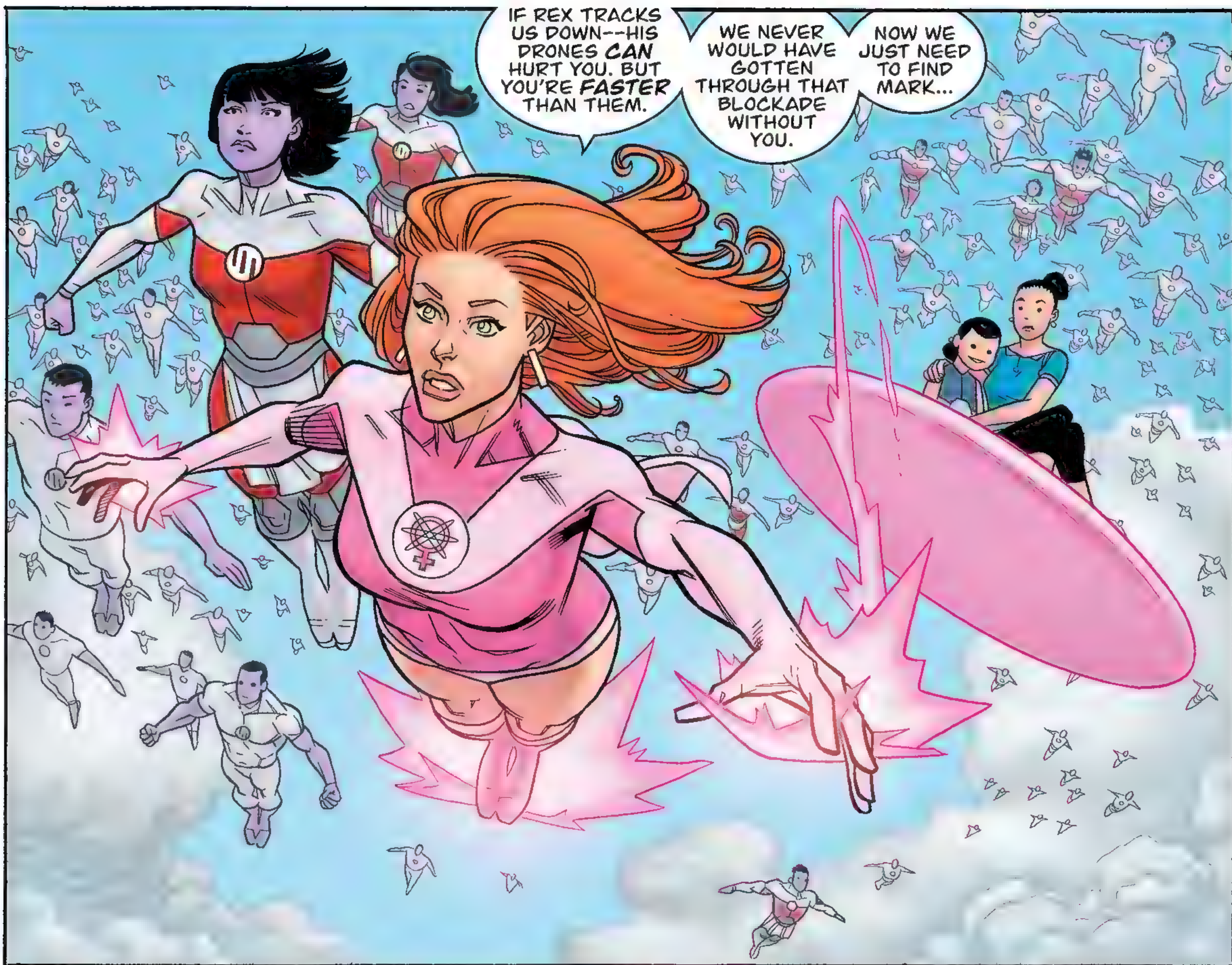


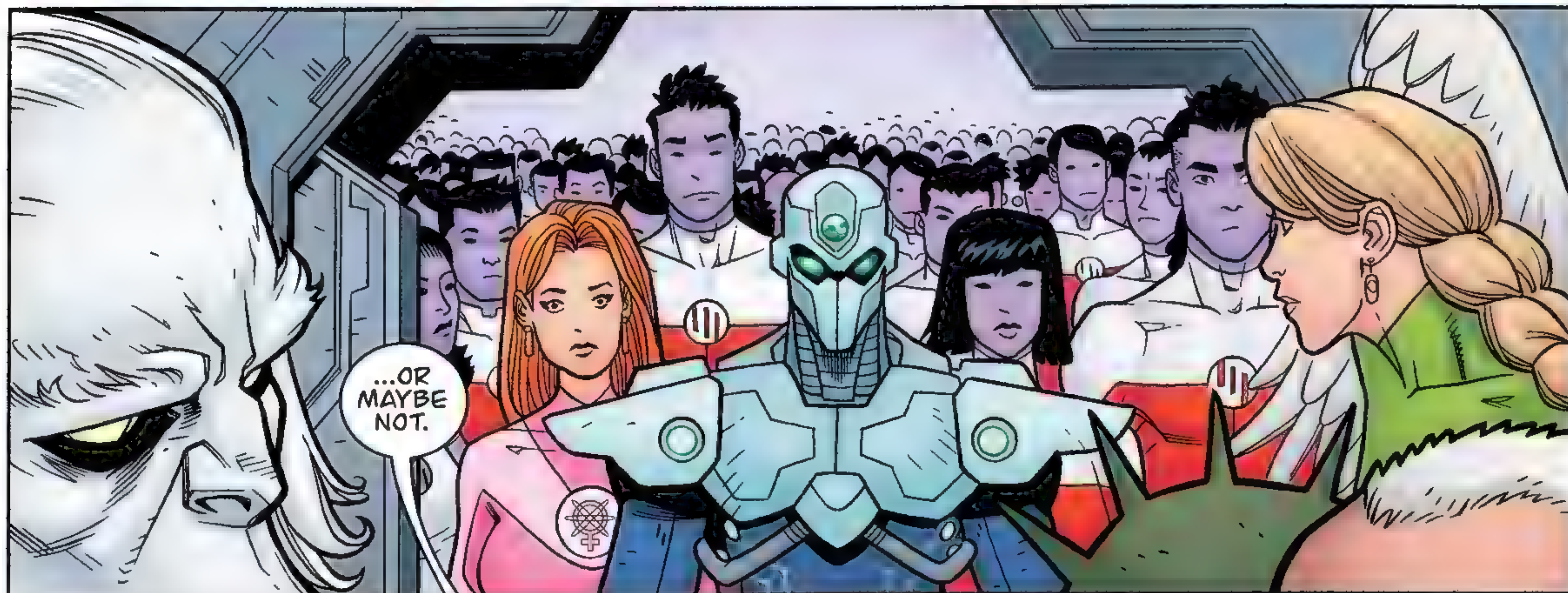
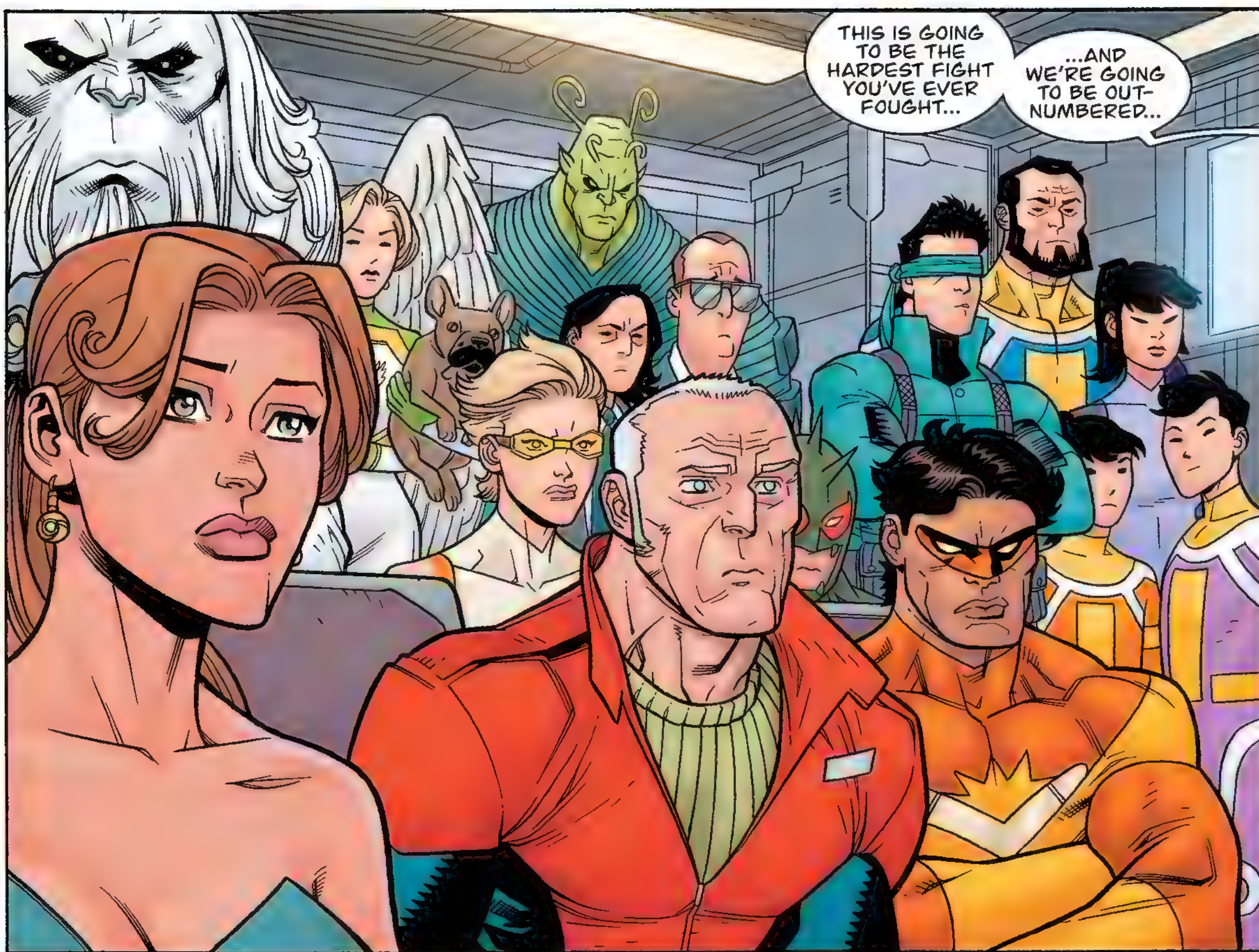
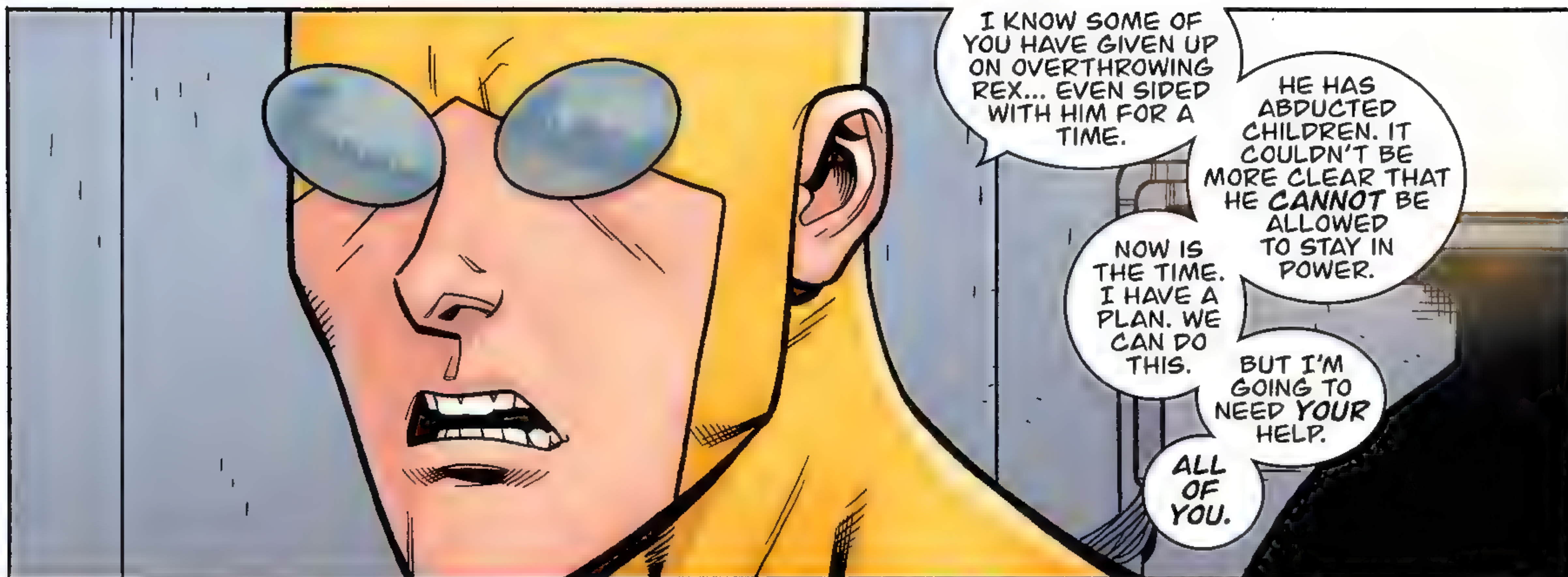


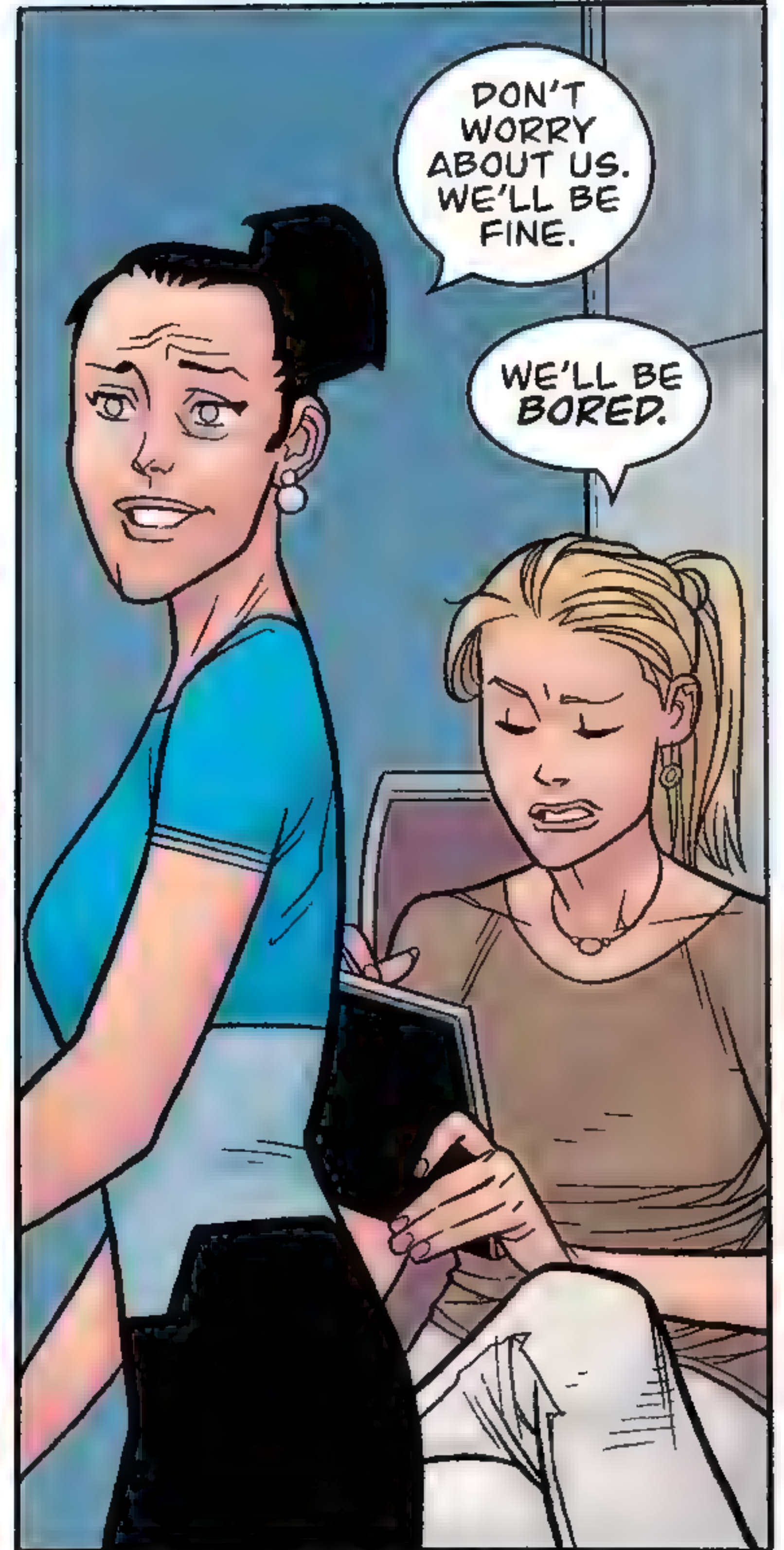
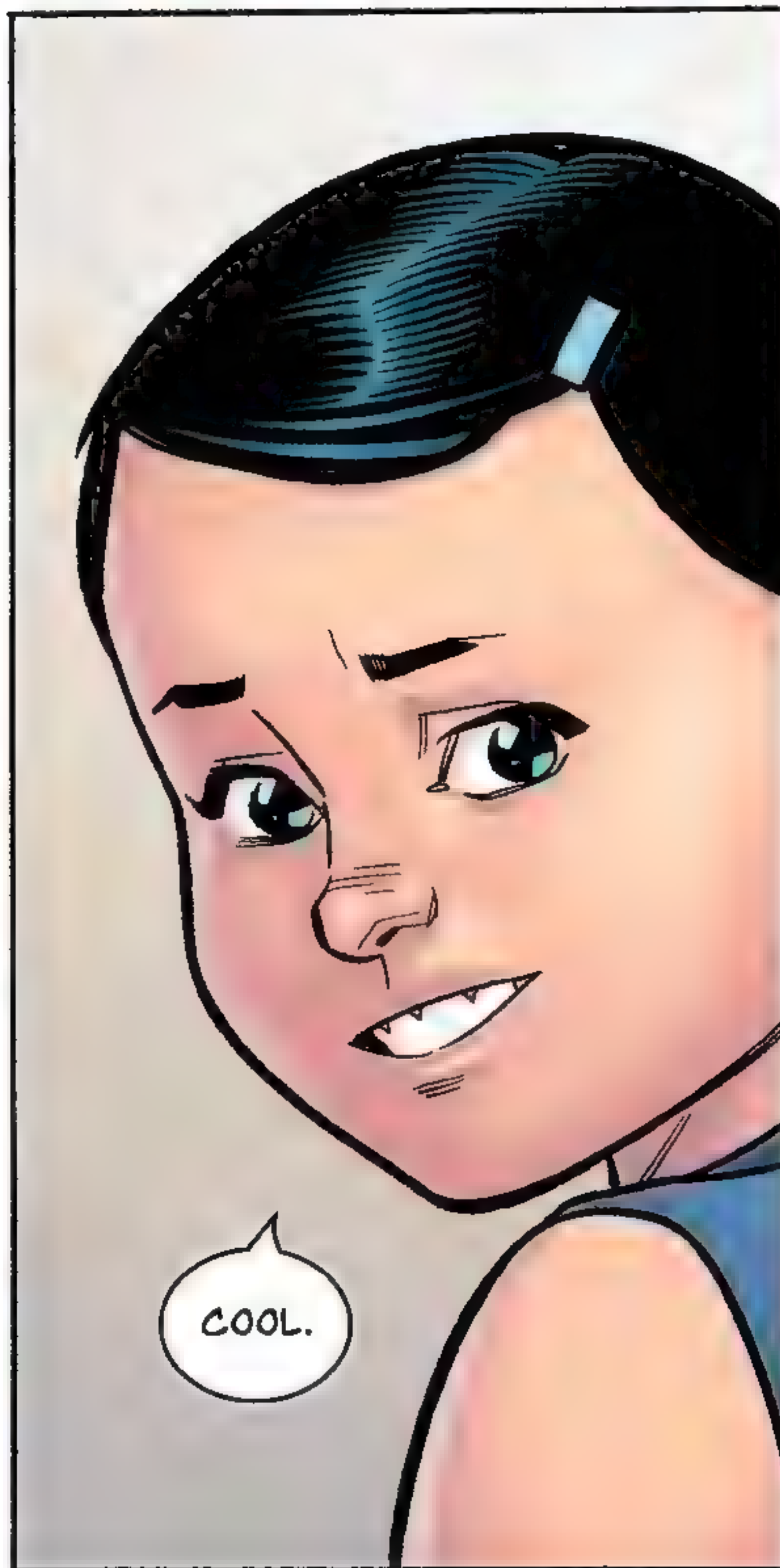
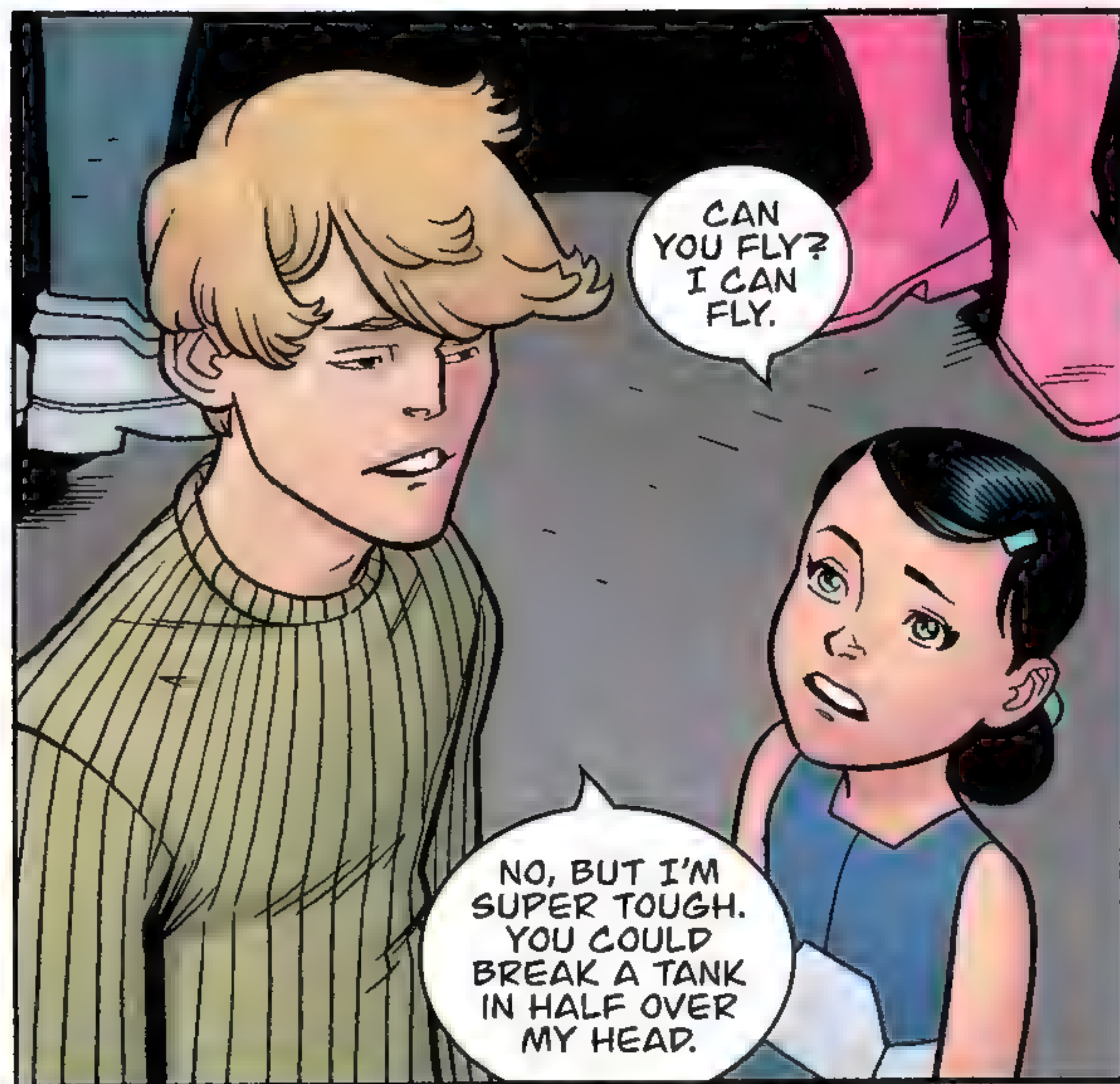
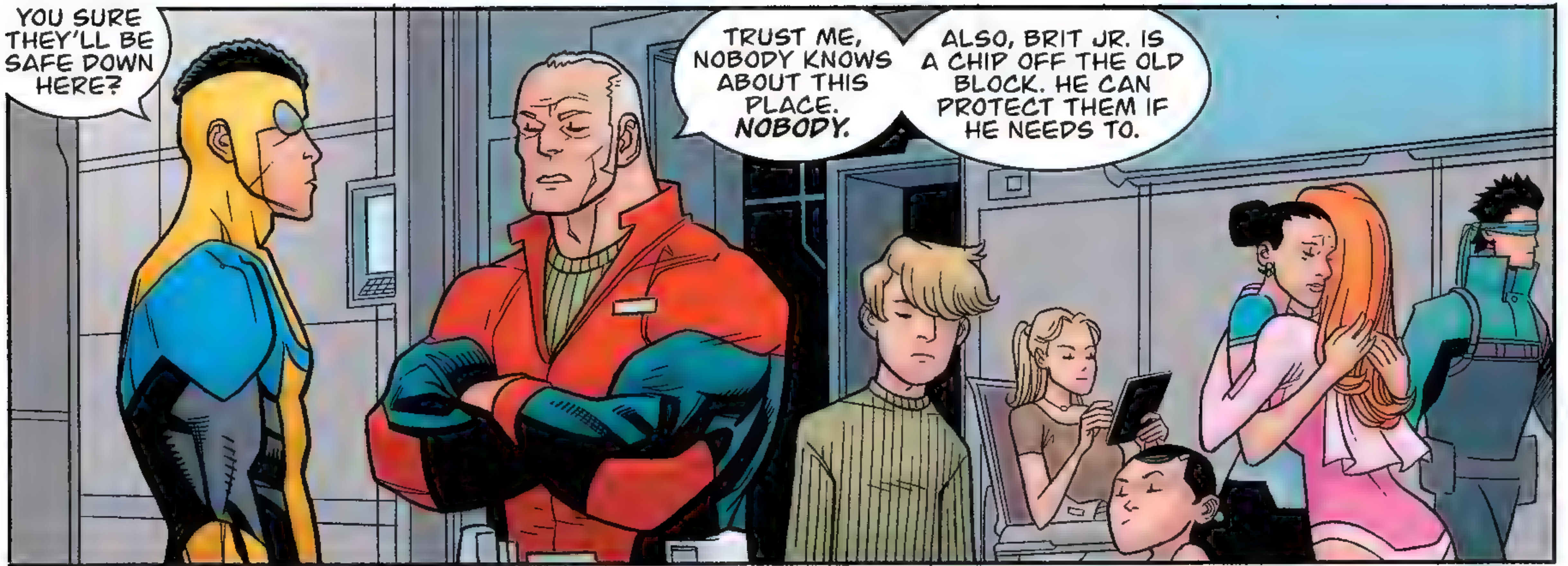


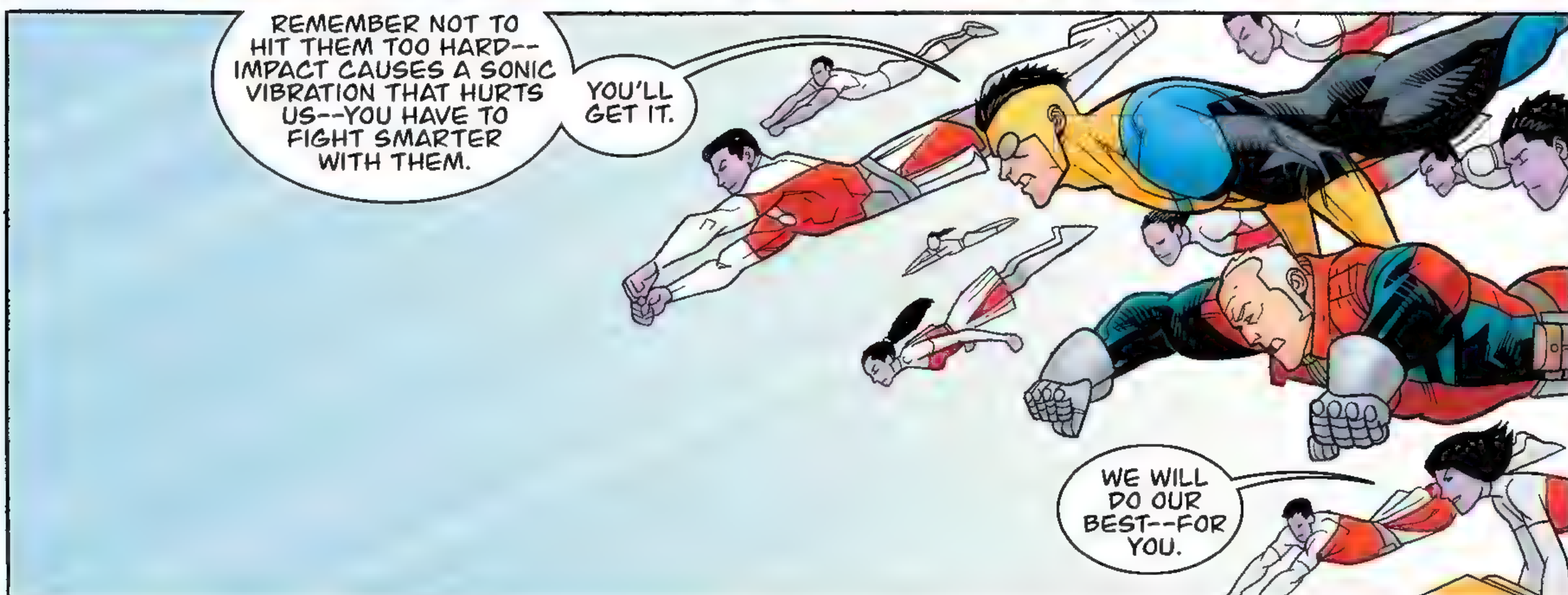




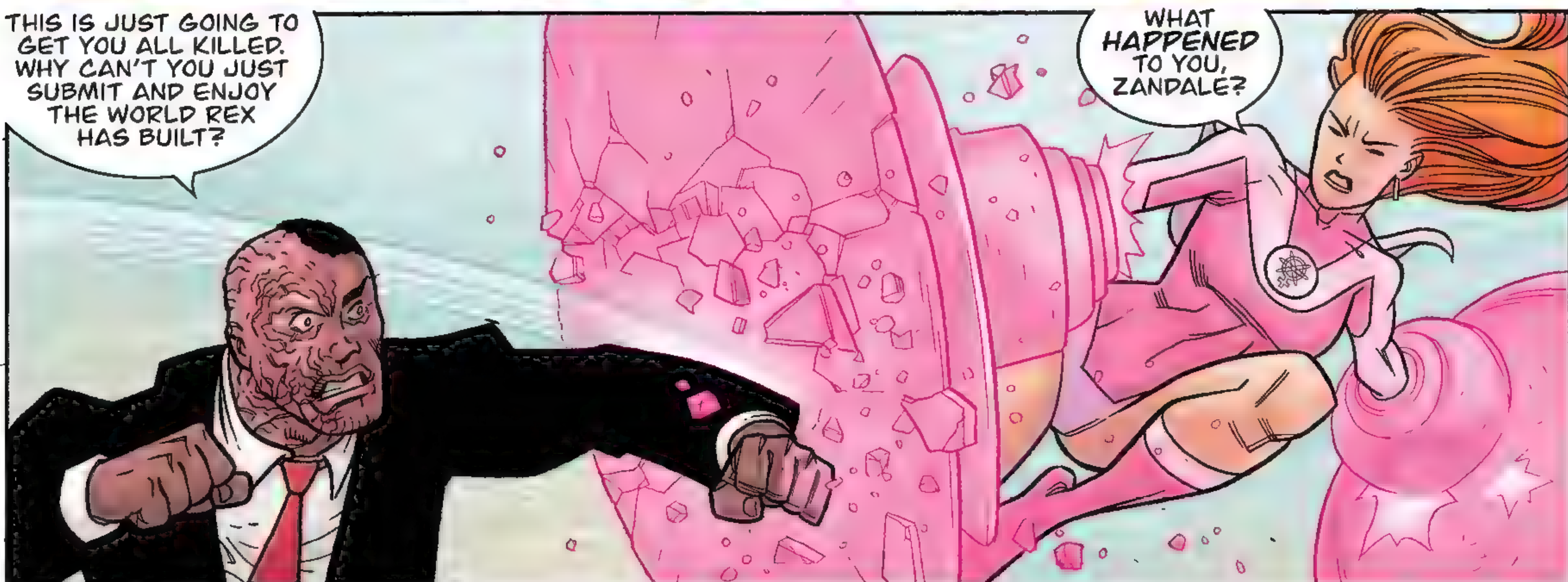
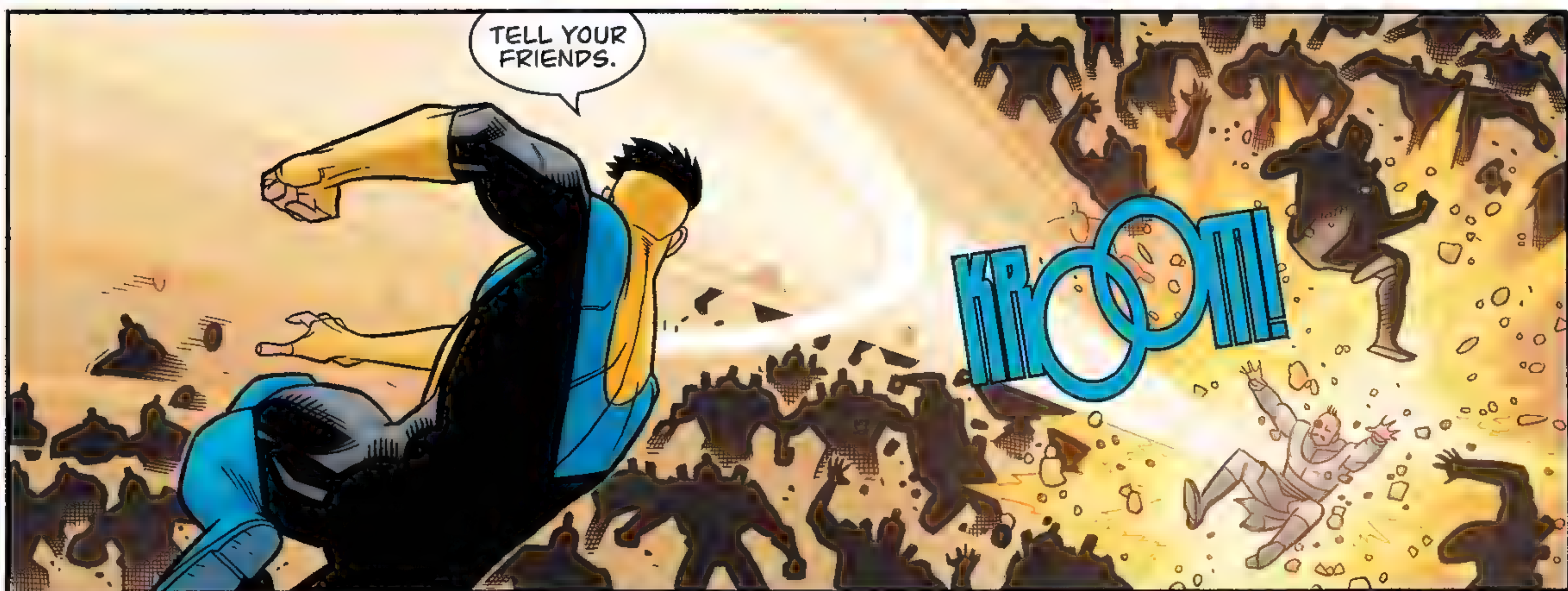
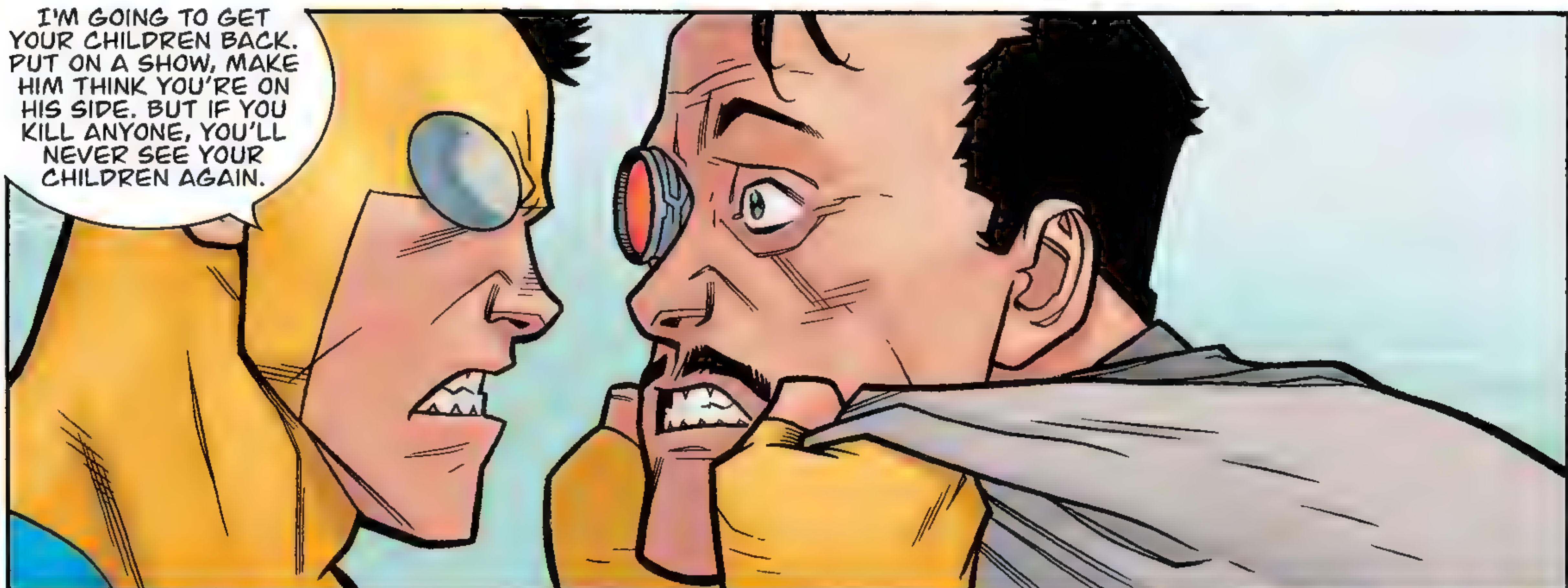
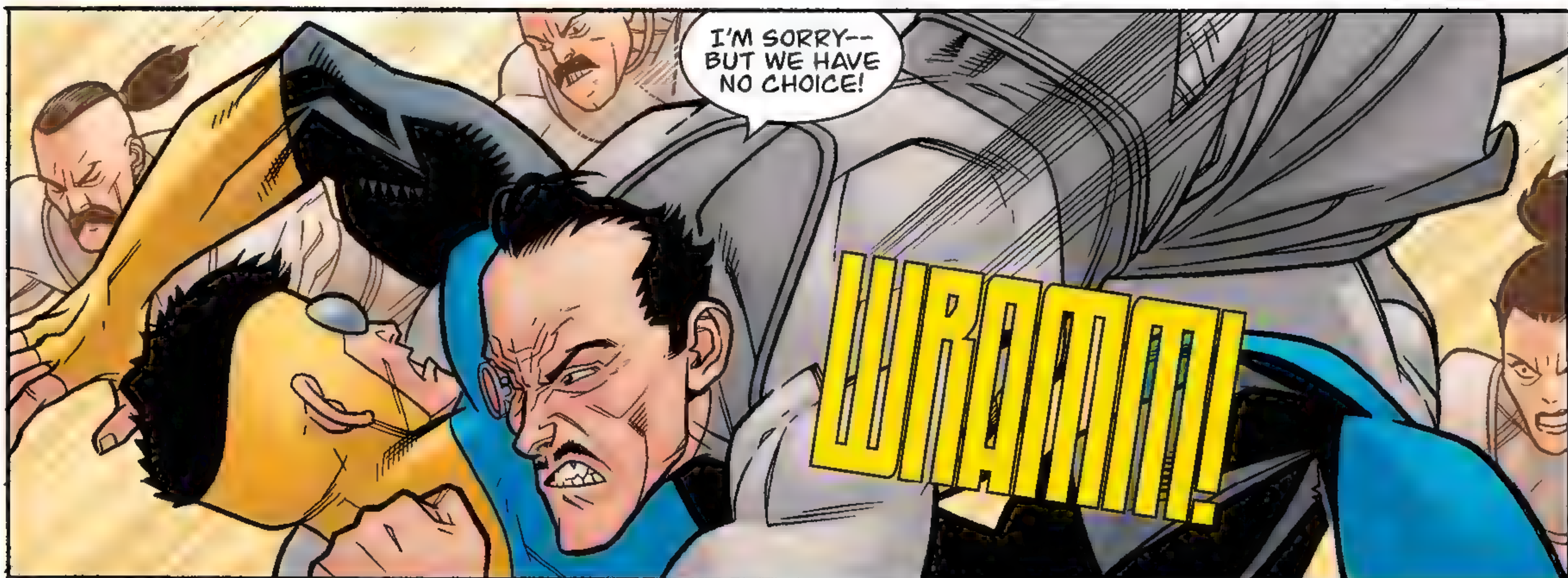














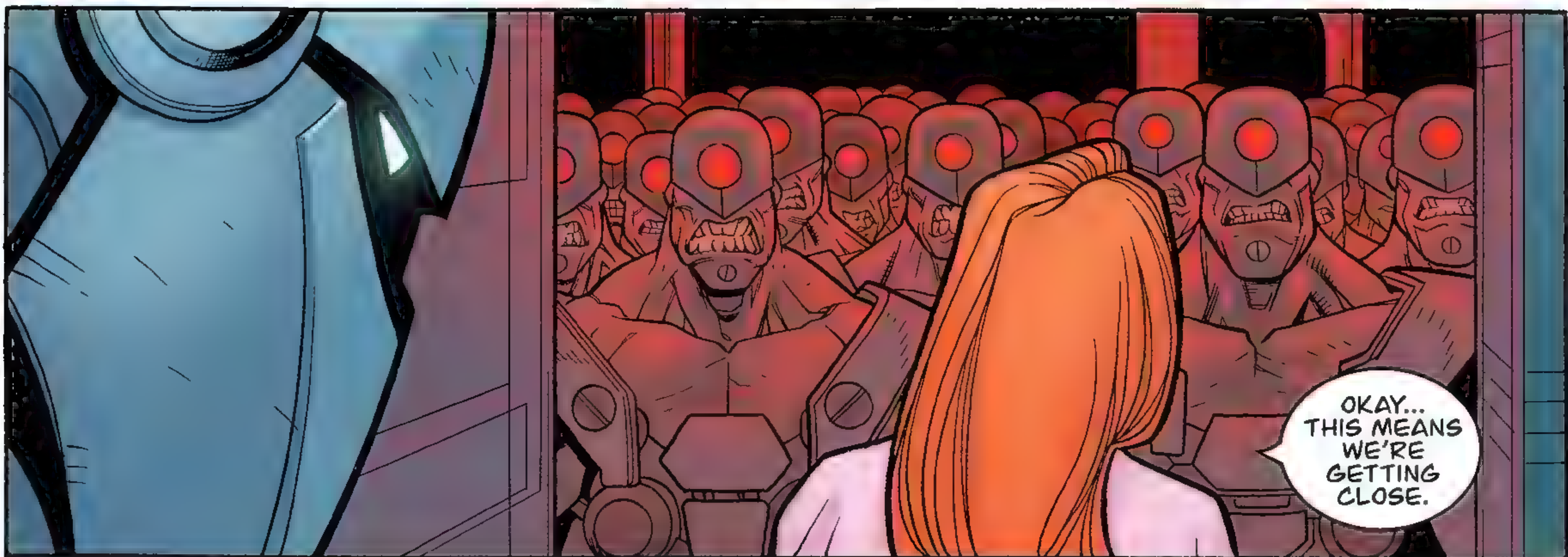
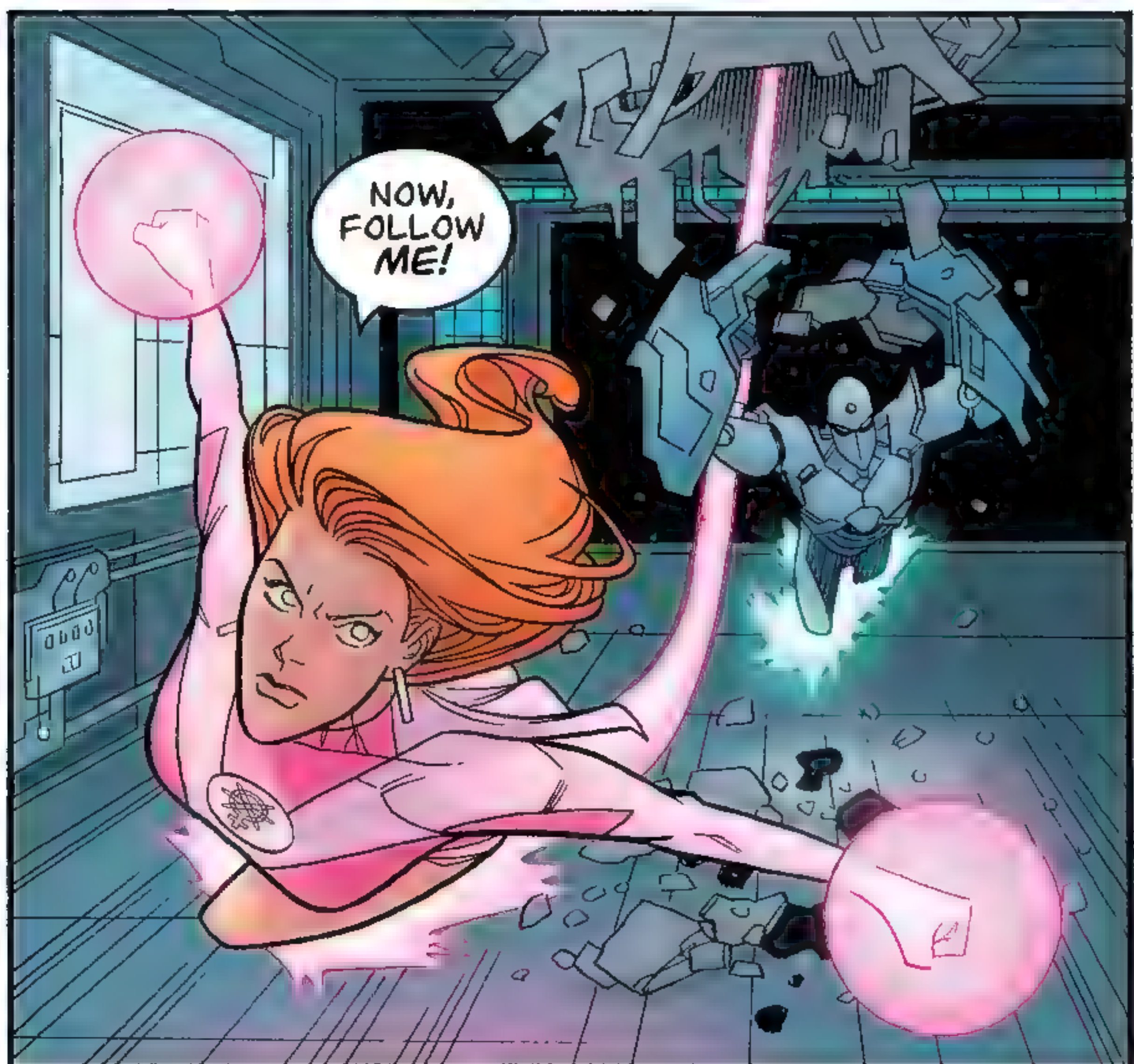
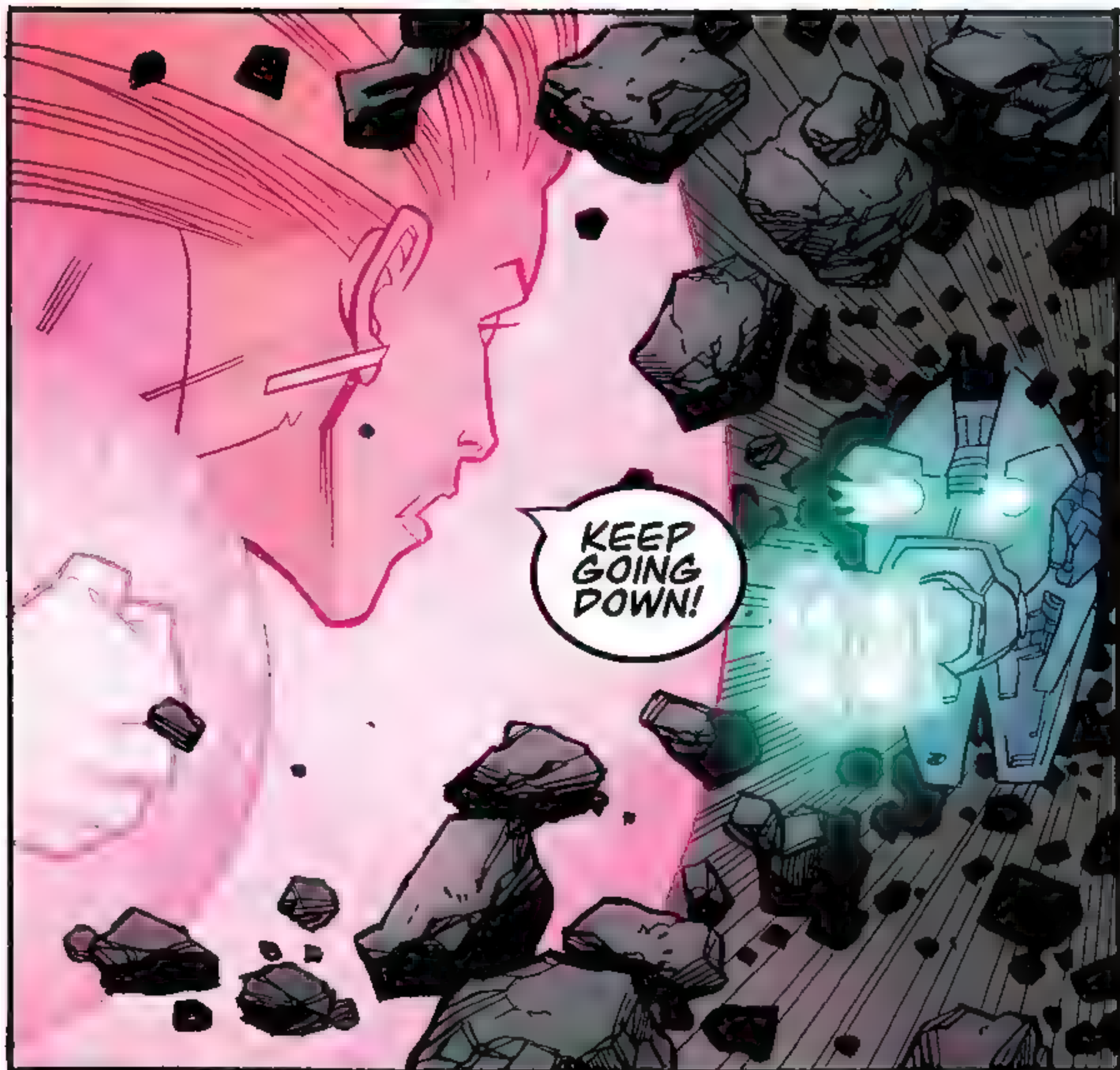
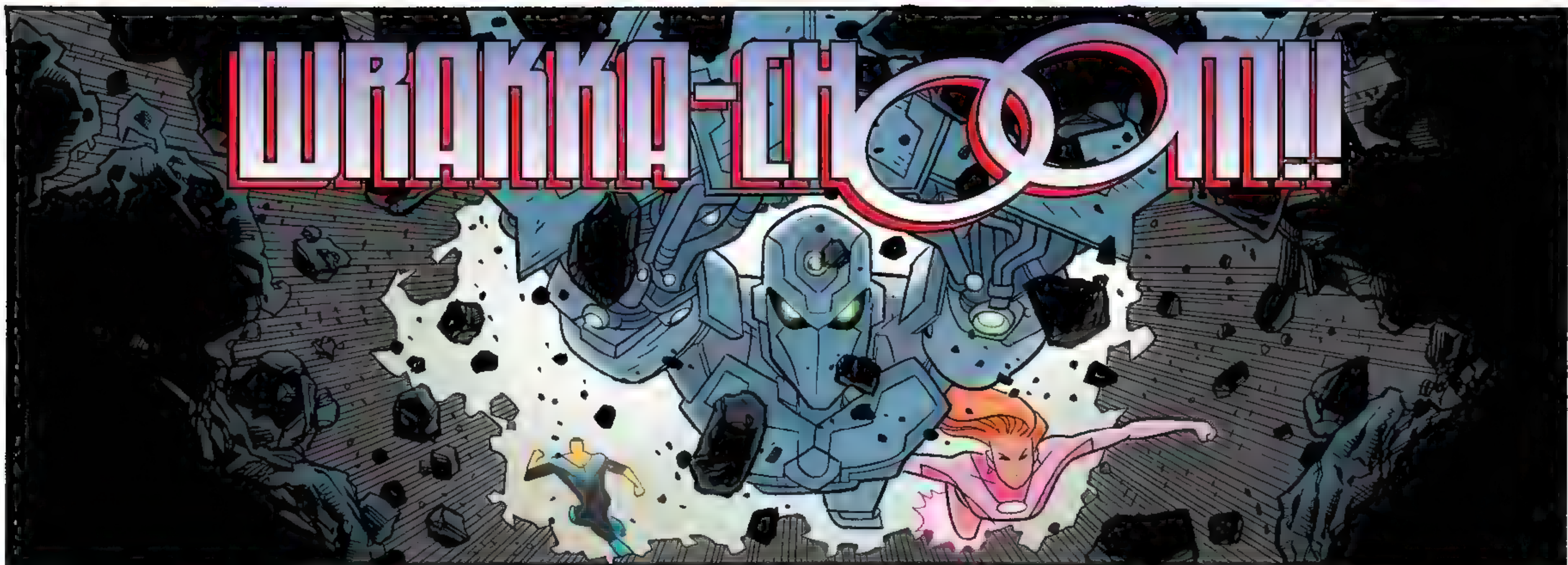
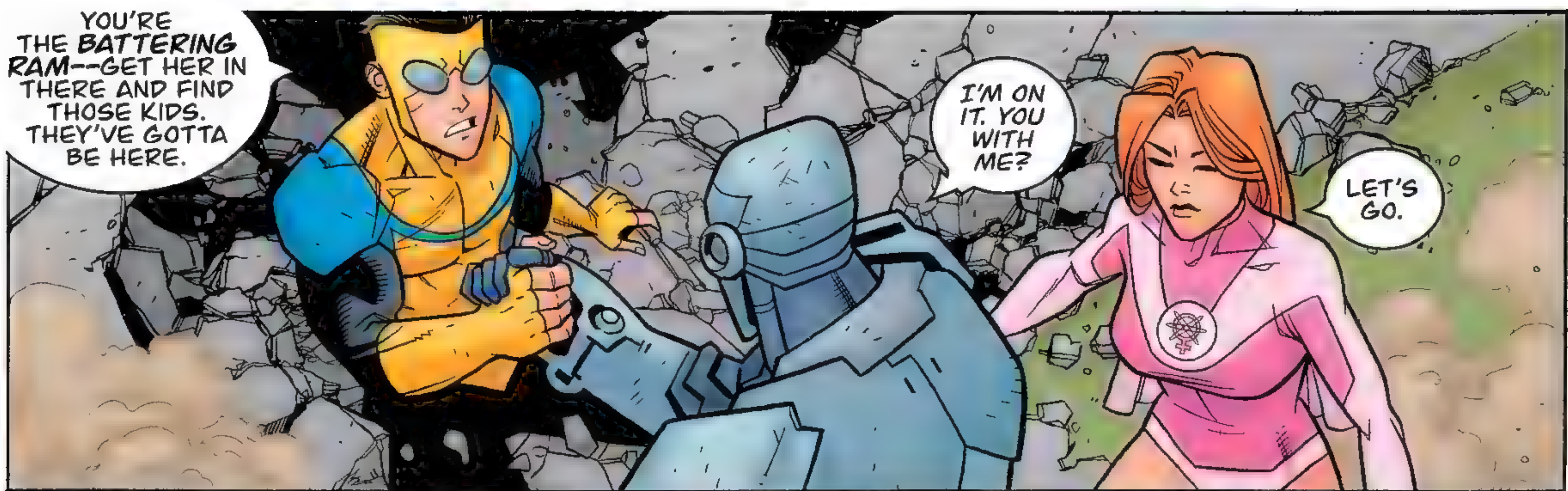
YOU
REALLY
COULDN'T
LEAVE WELL
ENOUGH
ALONE,
COULD
YOU?

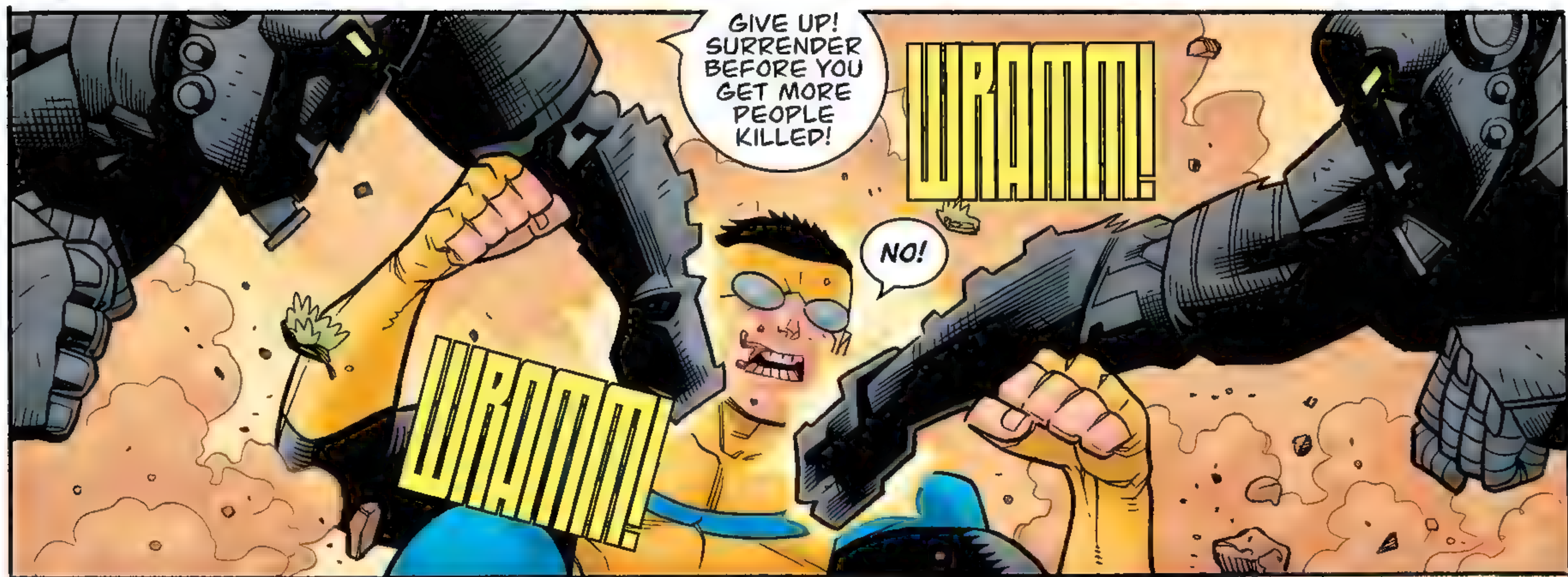
YOU WON'T
GIVE UP UNTIL
EVERYONE YOU
CARE ABOUT
IS DEAD.

WHAT YOU DID
IS WRONG. WHAT
YOU'RE DOING IS
WRONG. I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE GIVEN
UP--I SHOULD HAVE
TAKEN YOU OUT
IMMEDIATELY.

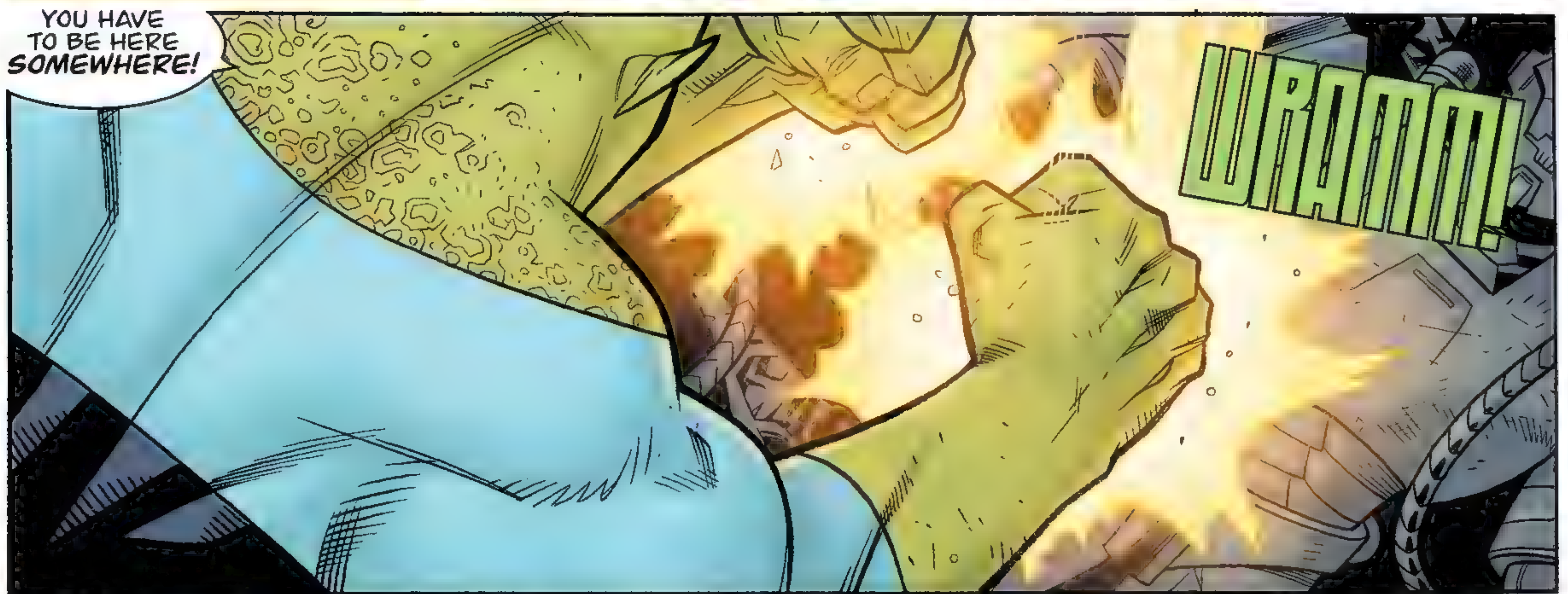
THIS PLANET
ISN'T YOURS TO
MANIPULATE
AS YOU SEE
FIT!

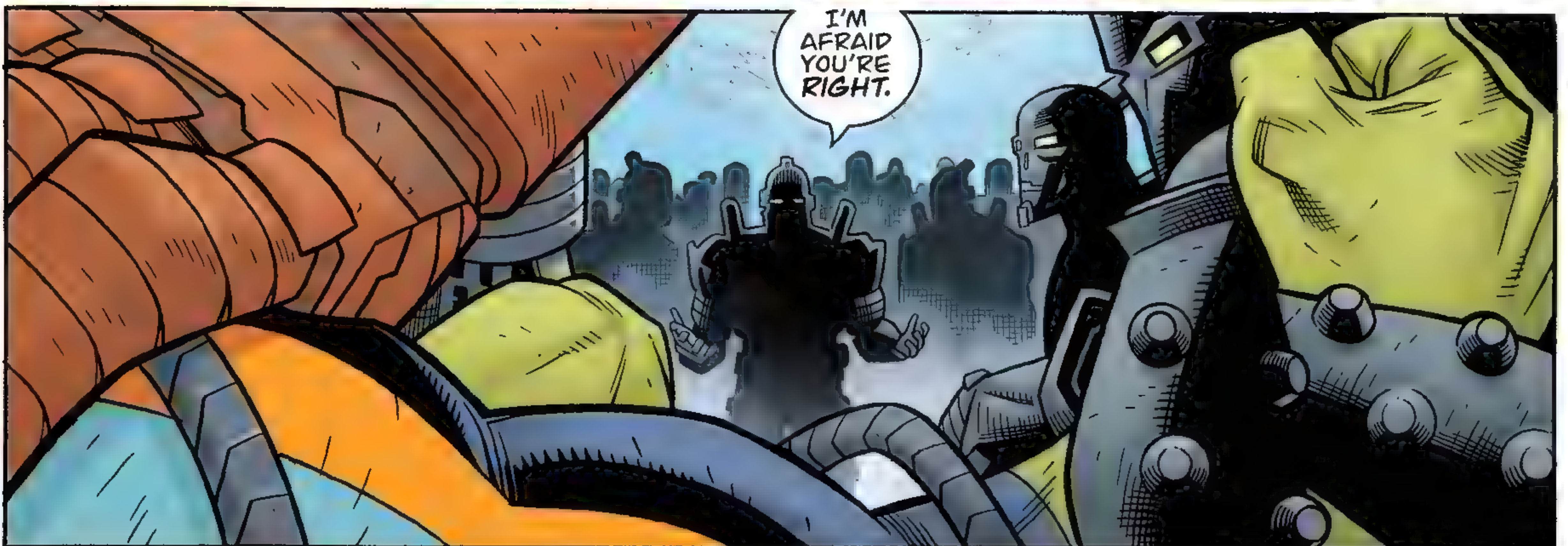
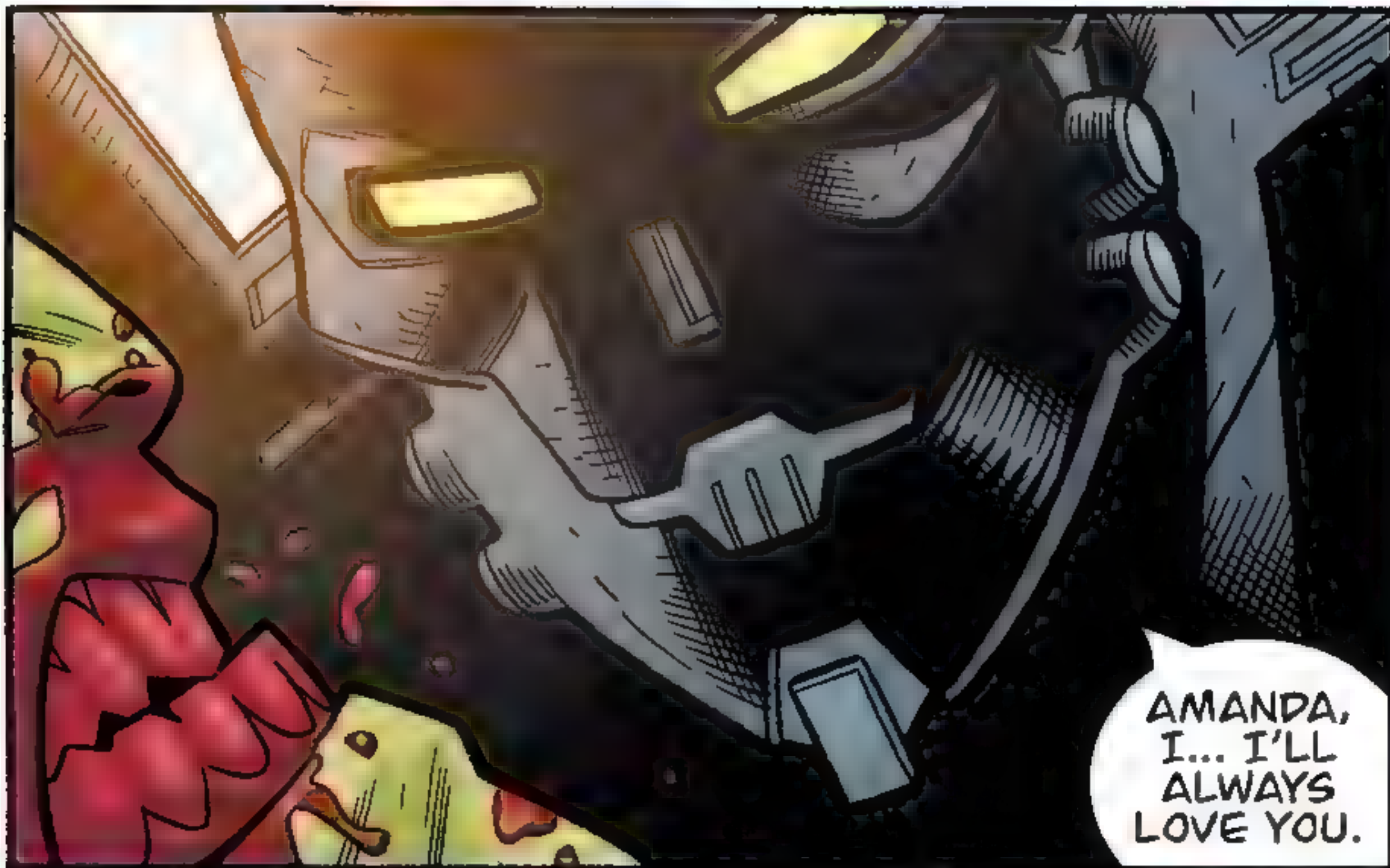
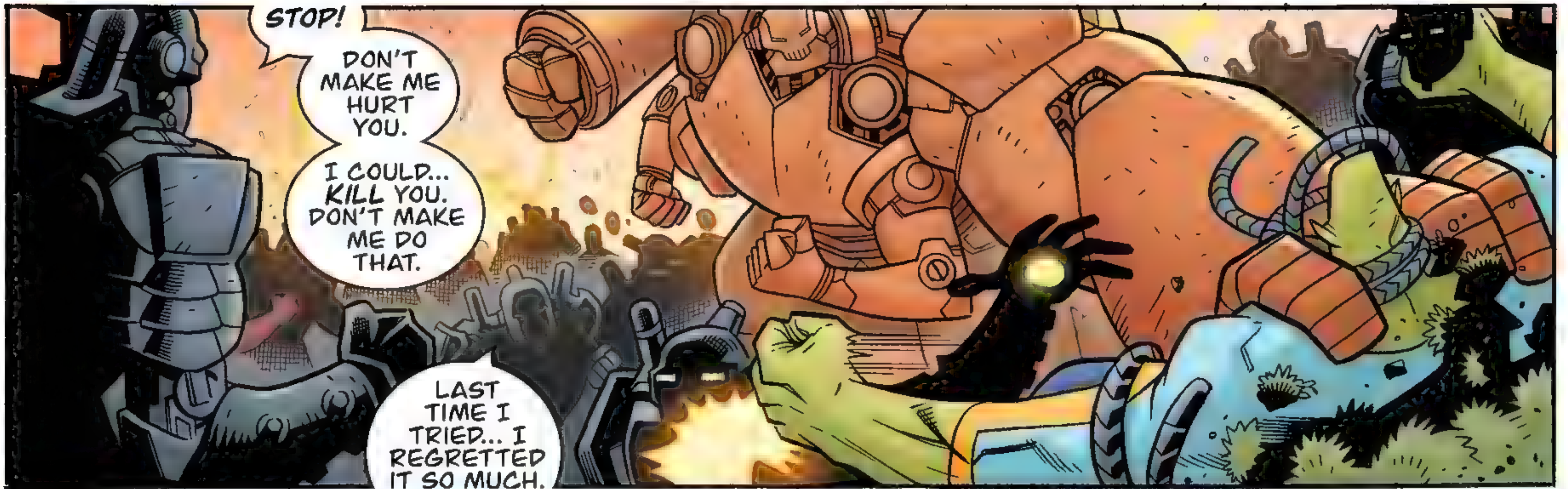


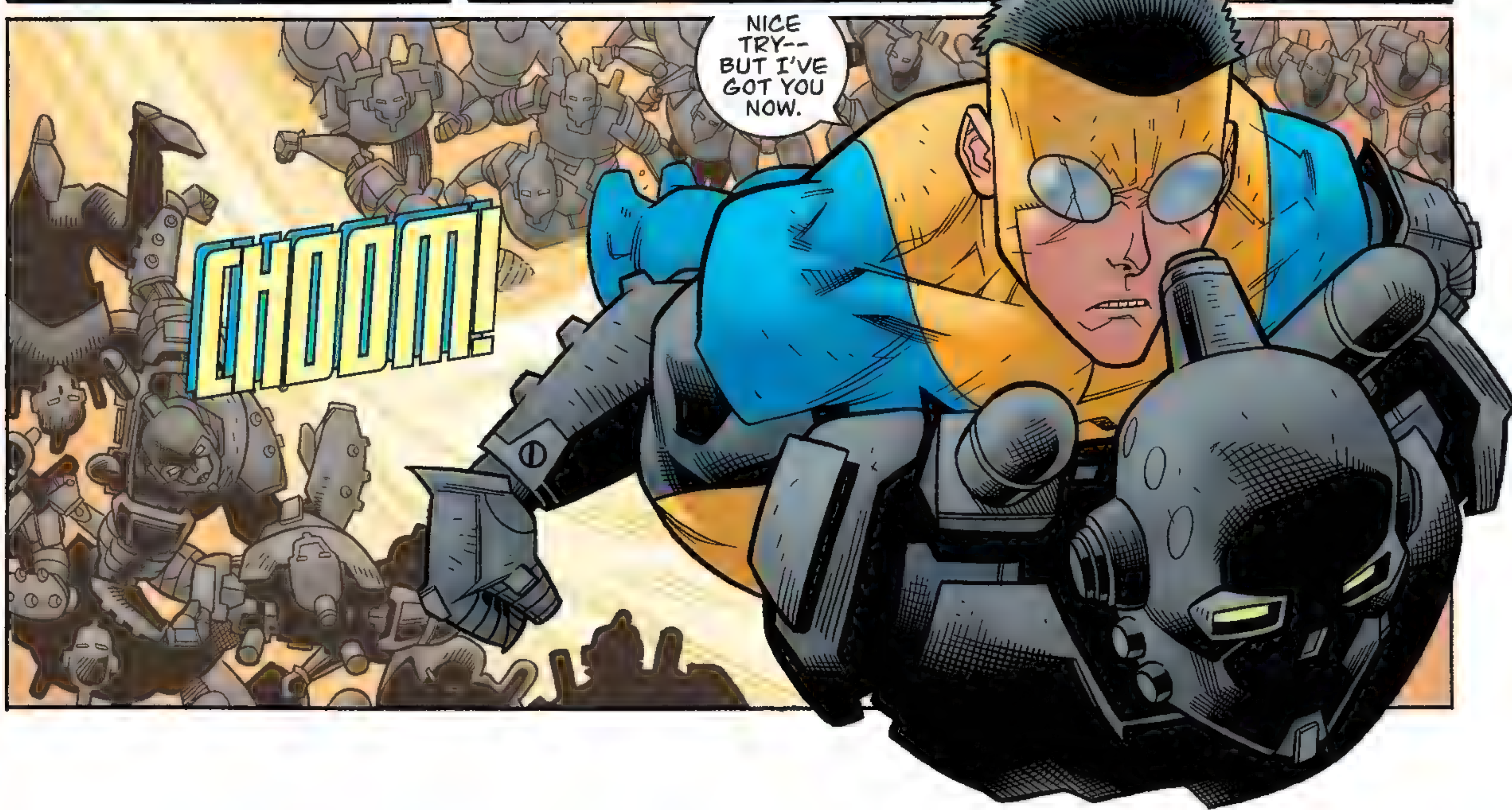
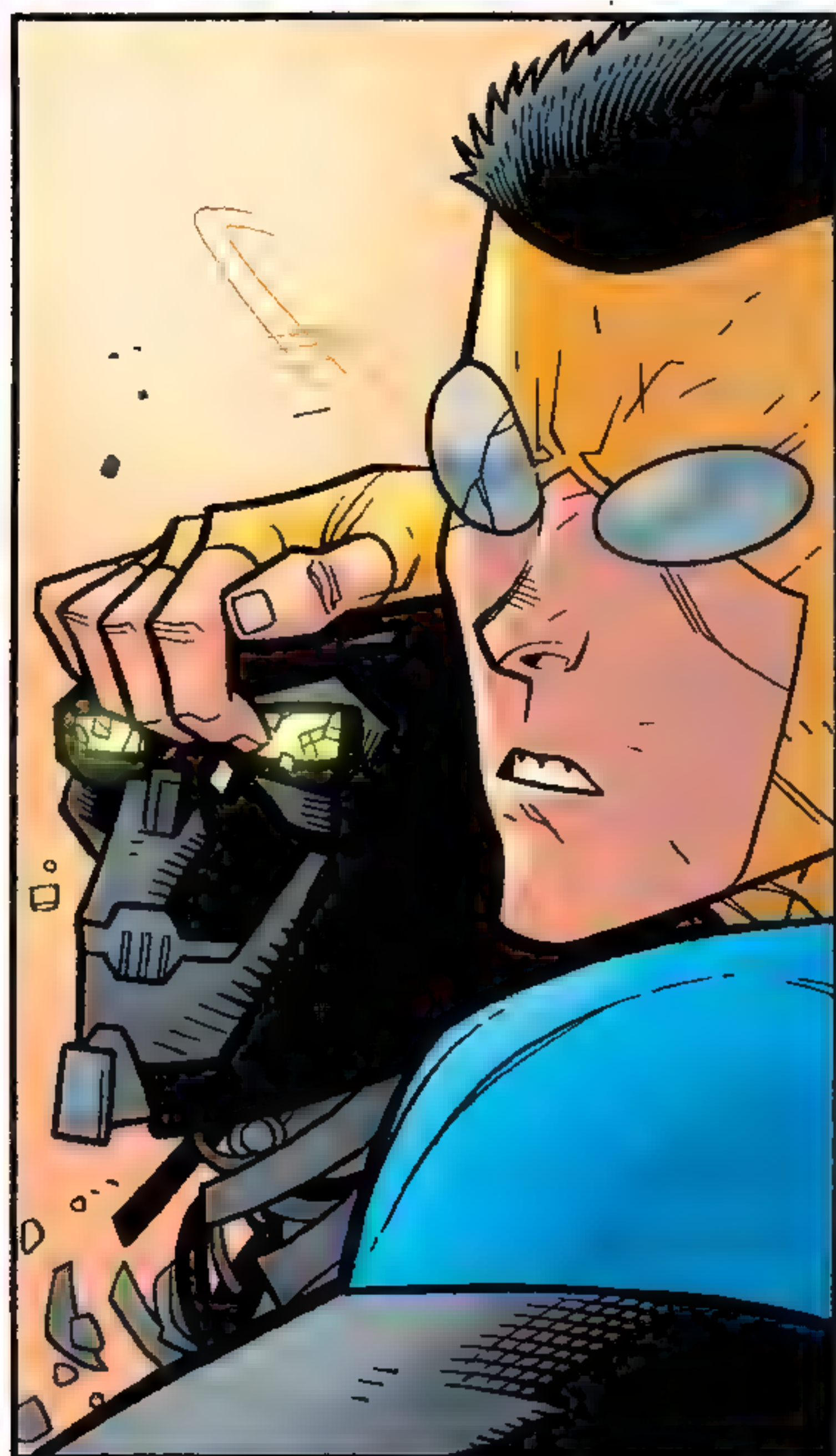
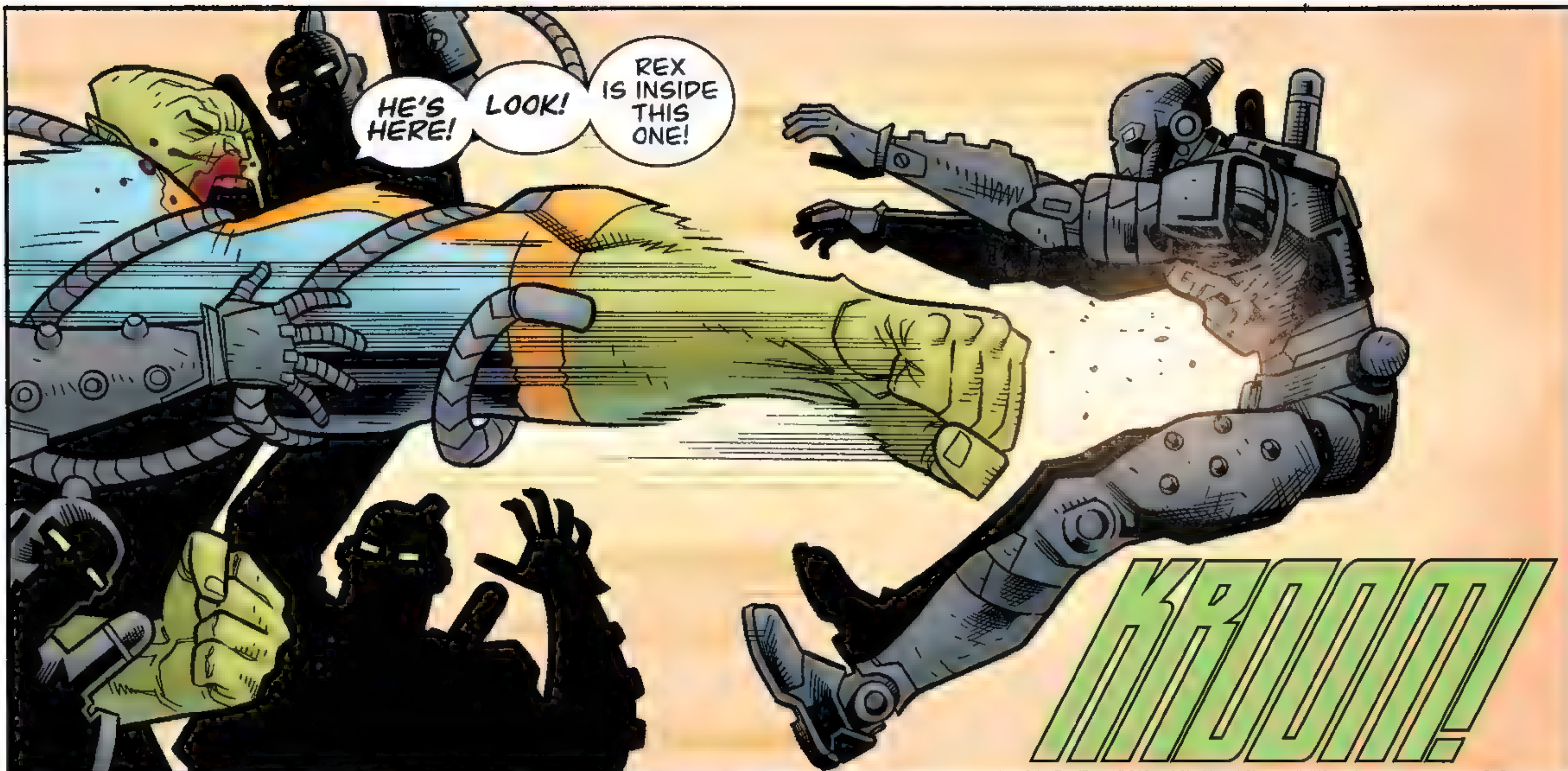


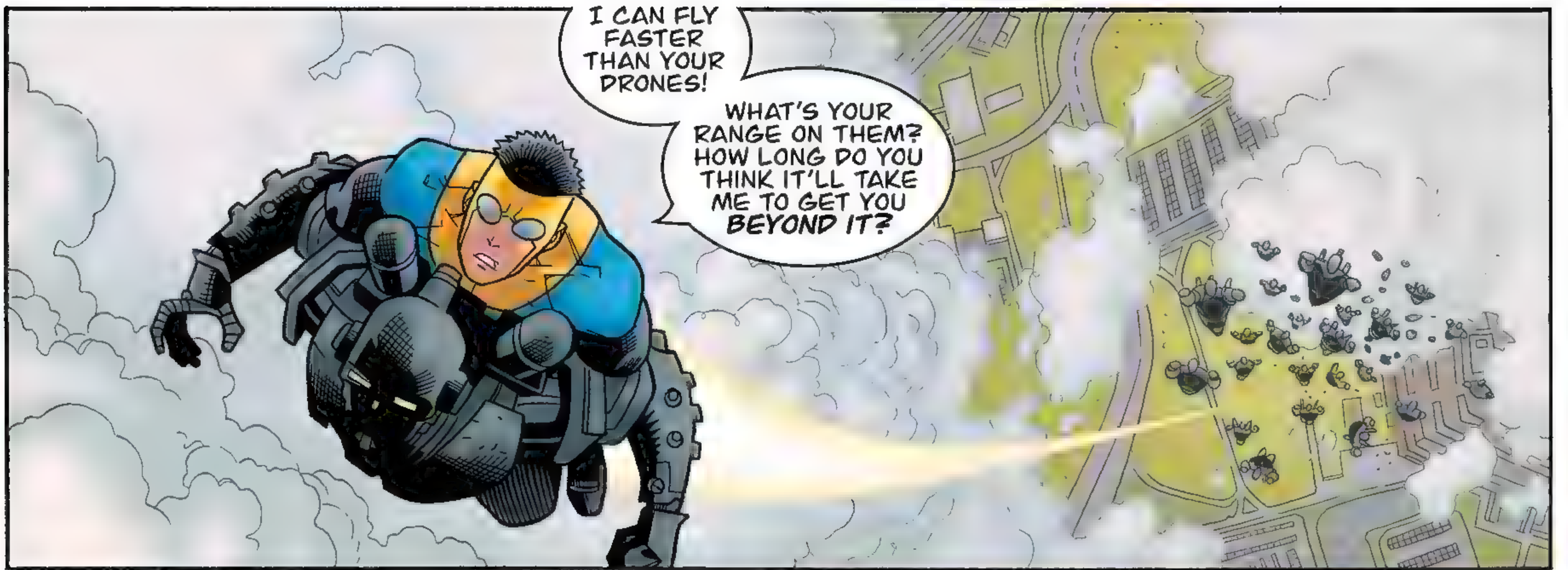












I CAN FLY
FASTER
THAN YOUR
DRONES!

WHAT'S YOUR
RANGE ON THEM?
HOW LONG DO YOU
THINK IT'LL TAKE
ME TO GET YOU
BEYOND IT?



YOU THINK
I CAN GET YOU
OUT OF RANGE
BEFORE YOU NOTICE
MY VILTRUMITES
AREN'T FLYING
AFTER ME?



GUESS
SO.



IT'S
OVER.

SOMEONE
FIND MY
CHILDREN,
NOW.



IT'S BEAUTIFUL OUT HERE.

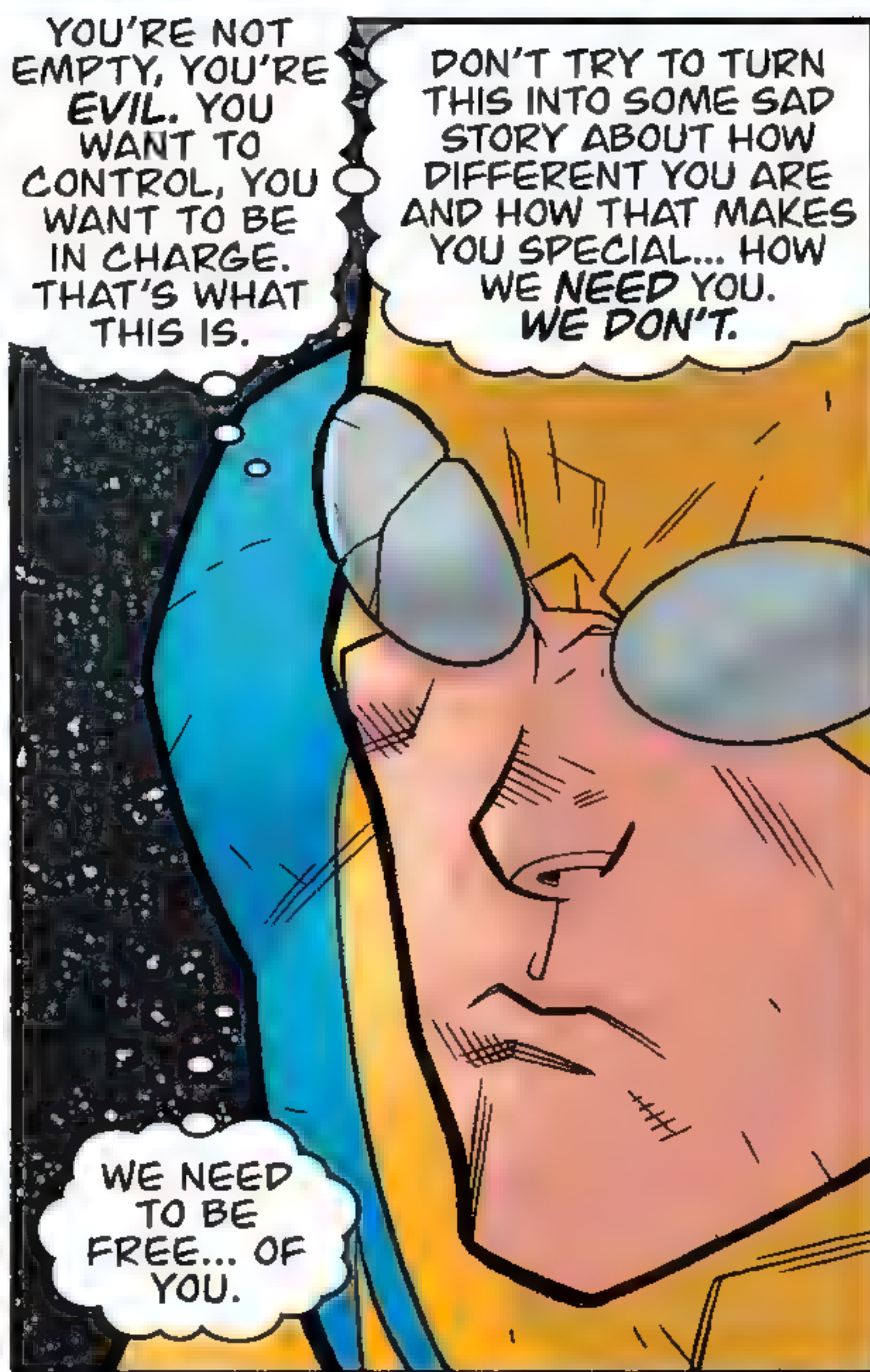
YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO TALK?

WHY NOT? HAVEN'T WE KNOWN EACH OTHER LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GIVE ME THIS? TO... HEAR ME OUT.



THEY CAN NEVER KNOW PEACE LIKE THIS. YOU CAN'T... NO ONE CAN. BECAUSE IT DOESN'T EXIST WITHOUT **EMPTYNESS**.

THAT'S WHY I GOT US CLOSER THAN WE'VE EVER GOTTEN BEFORE... BECAUSE I'M **EMPTY**, MARK.



YOU'RE NOT EMPTY, YOU'RE **EVIL**. YOU WANT TO CONTROL, YOU WANT TO BE IN CHARGE. THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.

DON'T TRY TO TURN THIS INTO SOME SAD STORY ABOUT HOW DIFFERENT YOU ARE AND HOW THAT MAKES YOU SPECIAL... HOW WE **NEED** YOU. **WE DON'T**.

WE NEED TO BE FREE... OF YOU.

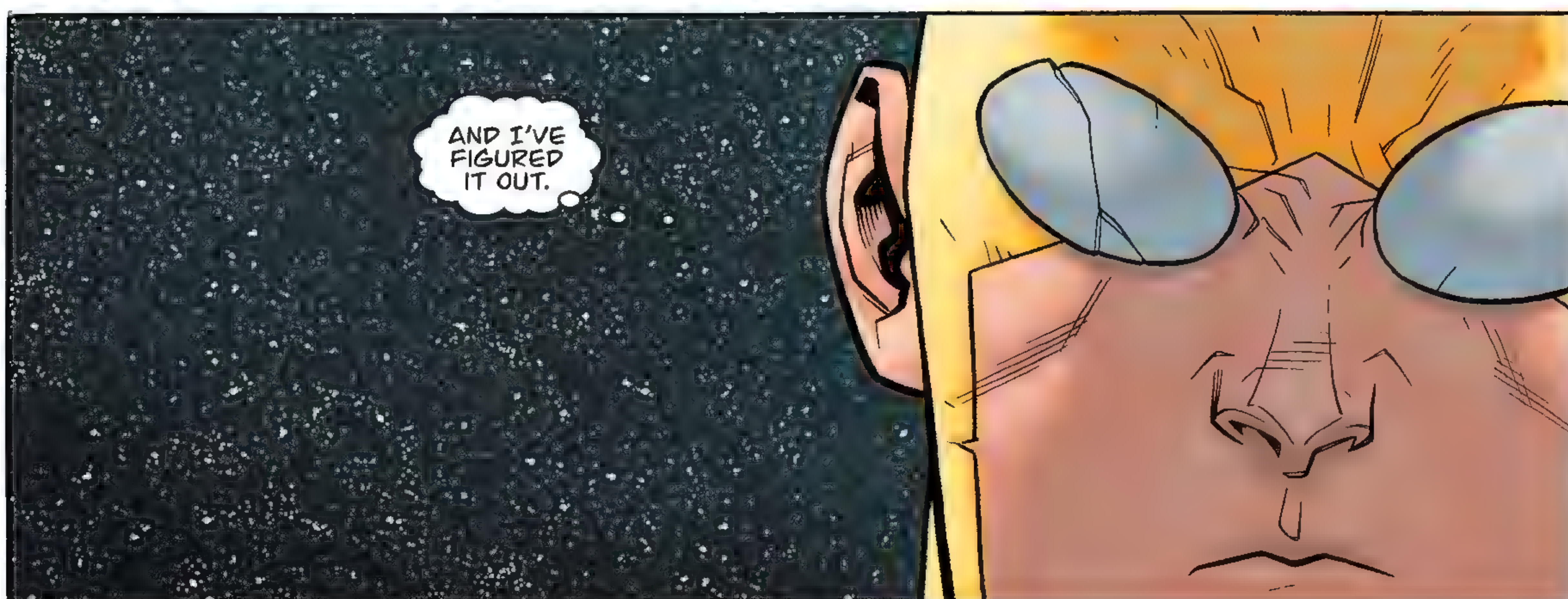
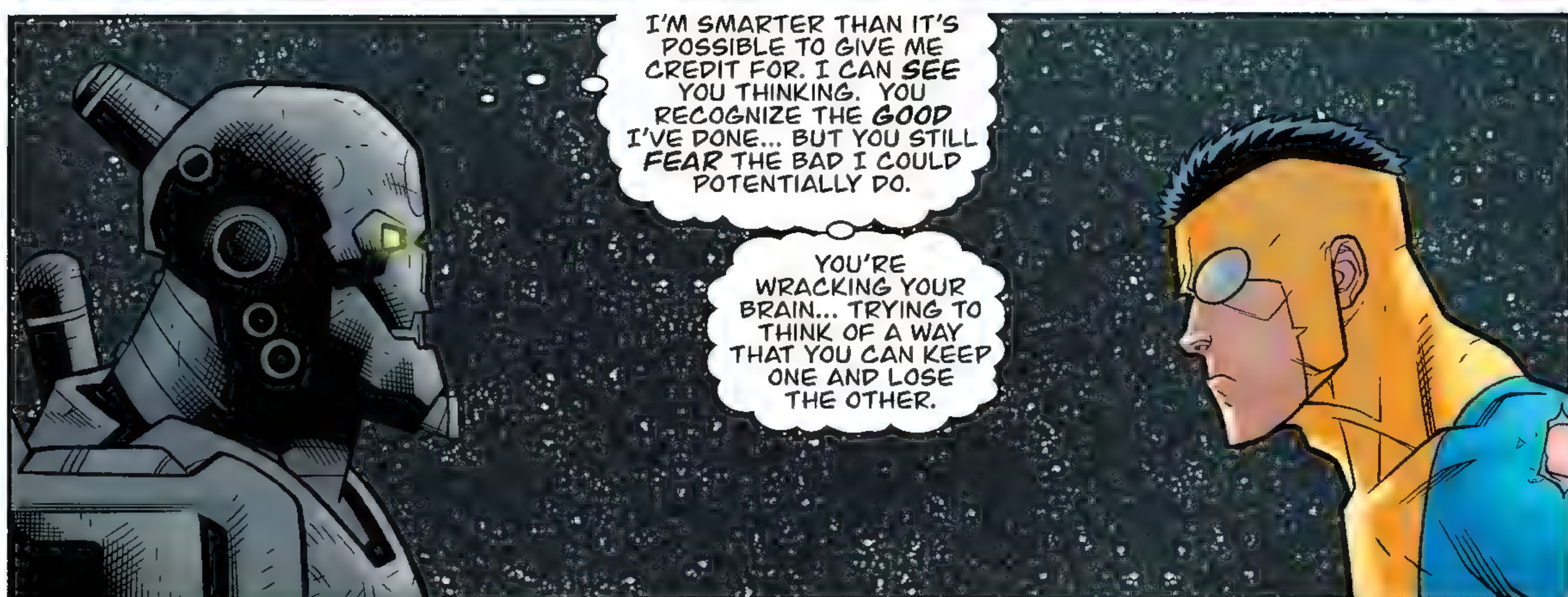
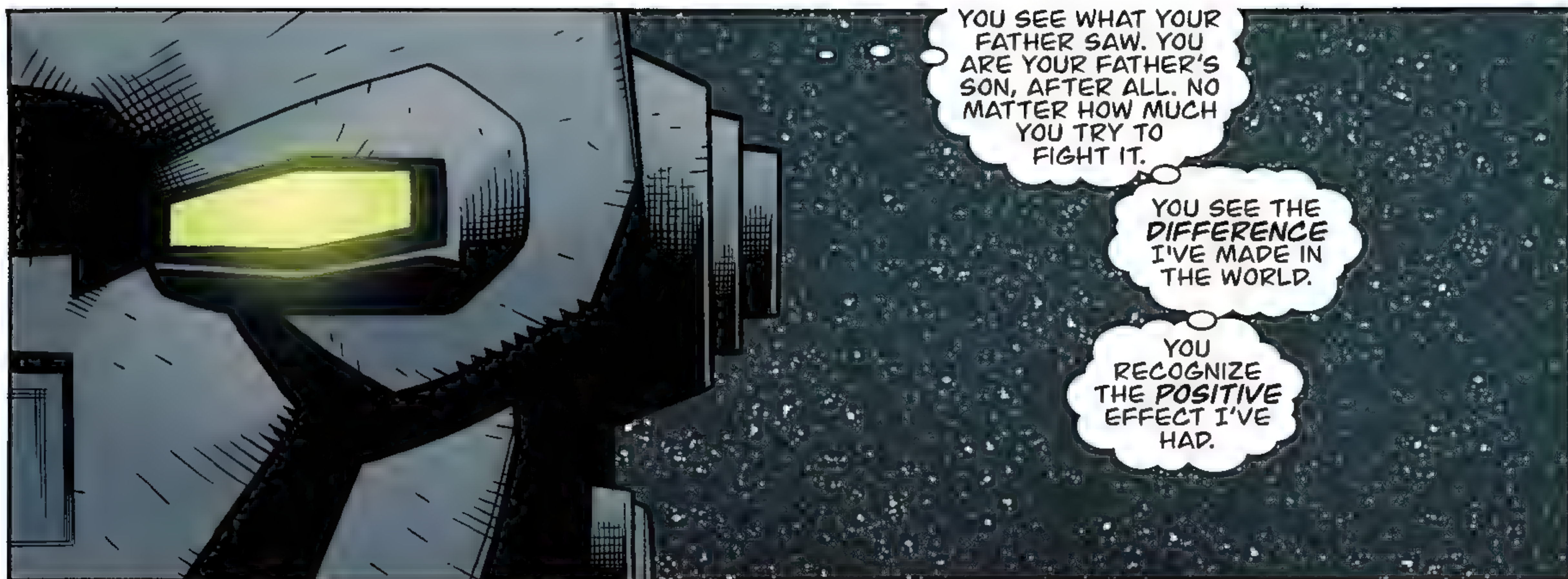


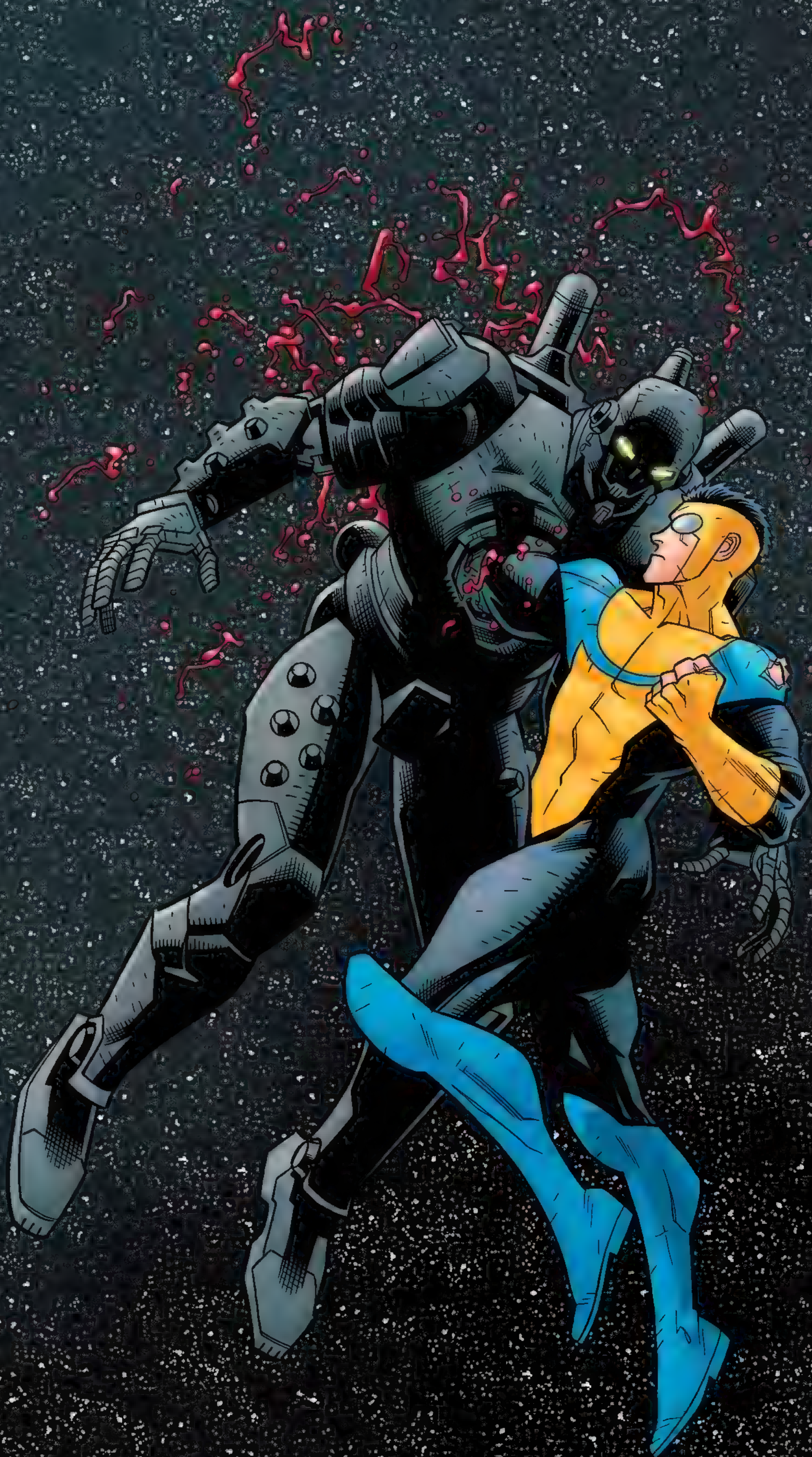
SO KILL ME, THEN. THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO DO.

AND YET, YOU **HESITATE**.



BECAUSE YOU KNOW... DEEP DOWN... I'M **RIGHT**.







I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING.



CLEARLY, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE... MONITORING THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD, ADVISING... EVEN DICTATING POLICY. KEEPING THE PEOPLE'S BEST INTERESTS IN MIND.

REX WAS RIGHT... HE DID MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. HE DID MAKE THE WORLD MORE PEACEFUL. WE NEED SOMEONE TO MAINTAIN THAT PEACE.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE BETTER THAN YOU.



I SEE YOUR LOGIC... I CAN'T ARGUE WITH IT... BUT, MARK... I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I'M UP TO THE TASK.



I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT... BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL HAVE HELP.



THE POD IS COMPLETE. HE CAN ONLY SEND OUT VERBAL COMMANDS. HE'S COMPLETELY IMMOBILE, AND HE'S BLOCKED FROM SENDING ANY COMMANDS OUT TO ANY DRONES HE MAY STILL HAVE HIDDEN OUT THERE.

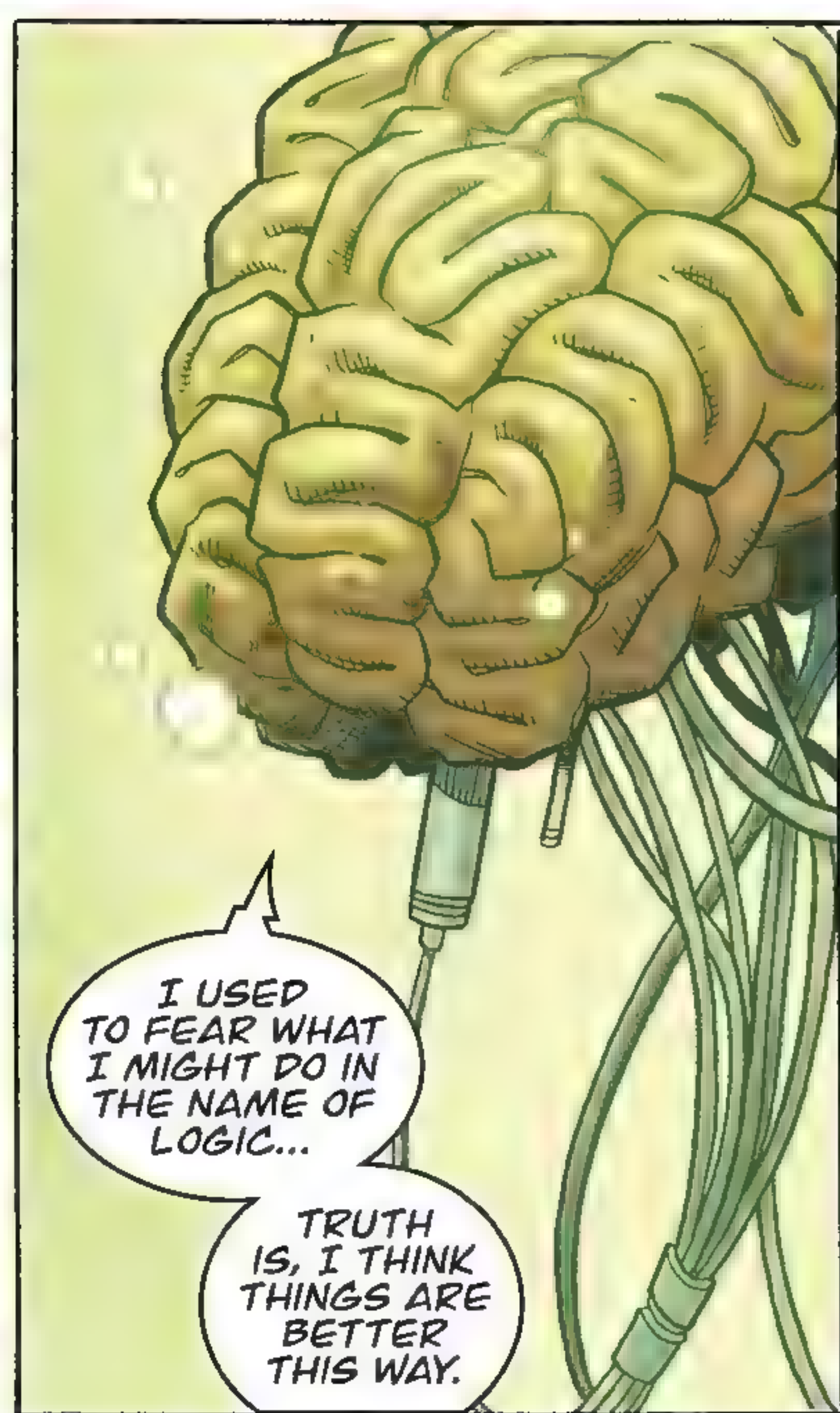
THIS IS ABOUT AS SECURE AS IT GETS.

SO HERE IT IS. REX... ROBOT... ALL HIS IDEAS, ALL HIS PLANS... ALL THE GOOD HE WANTS TO BRING TO THIS WORLD IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

AND IT GETS FILTERED THROUGH YOU.



I CAN WORK WITH THIS.

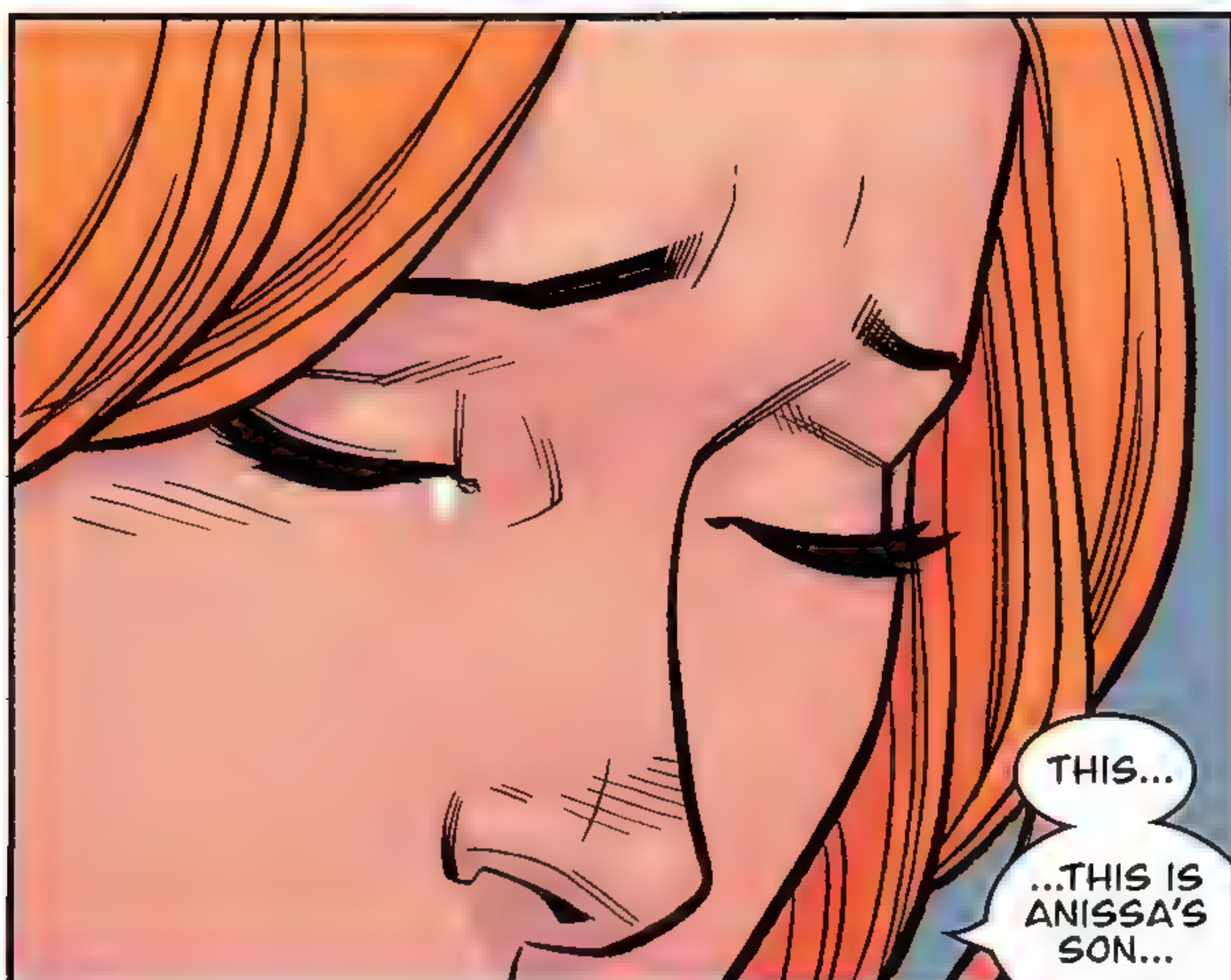
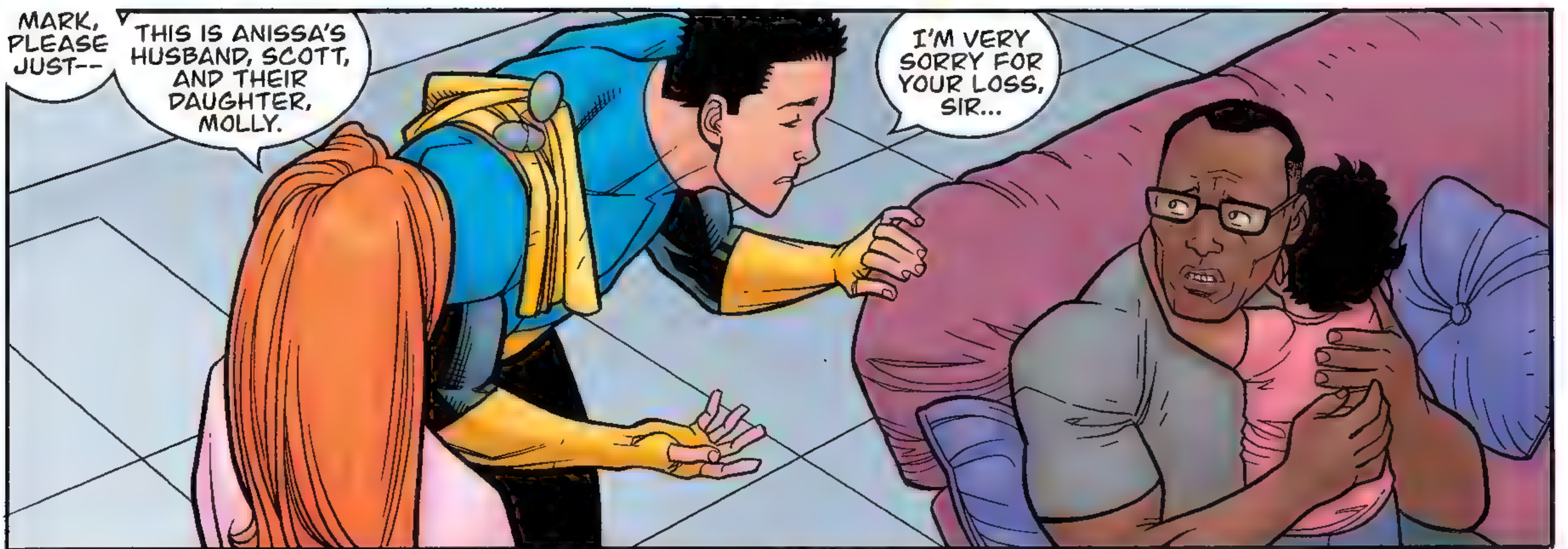
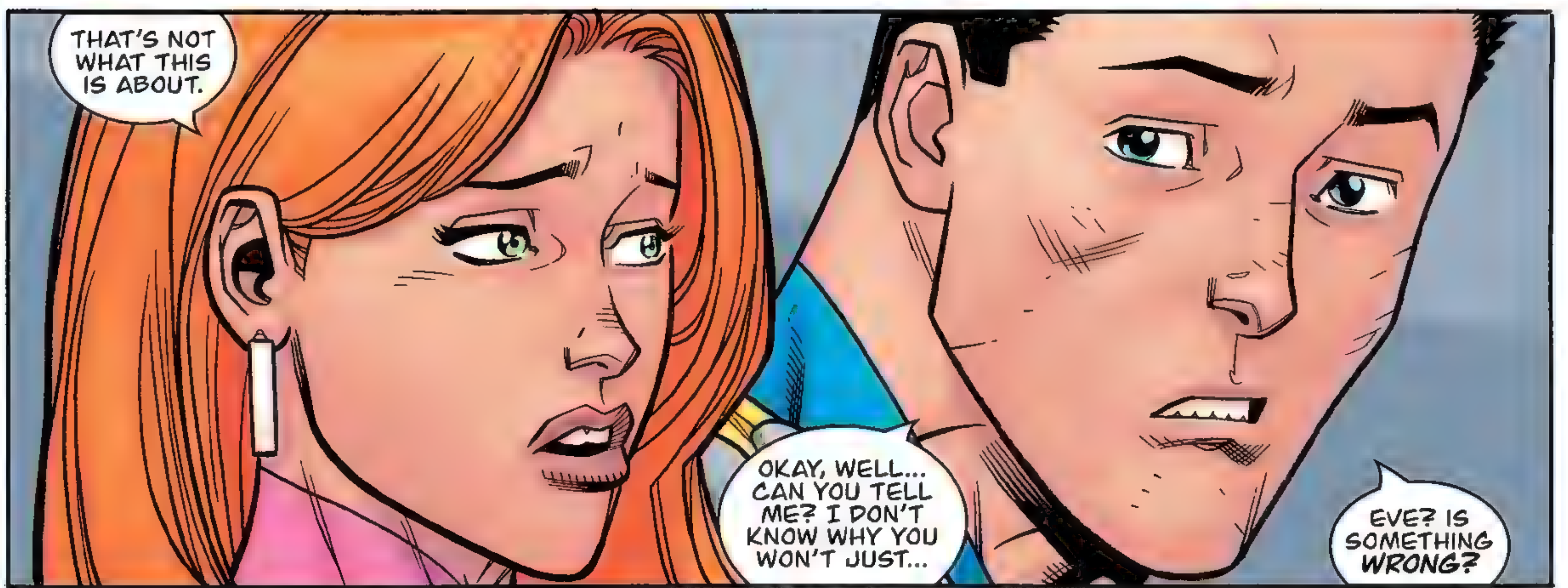
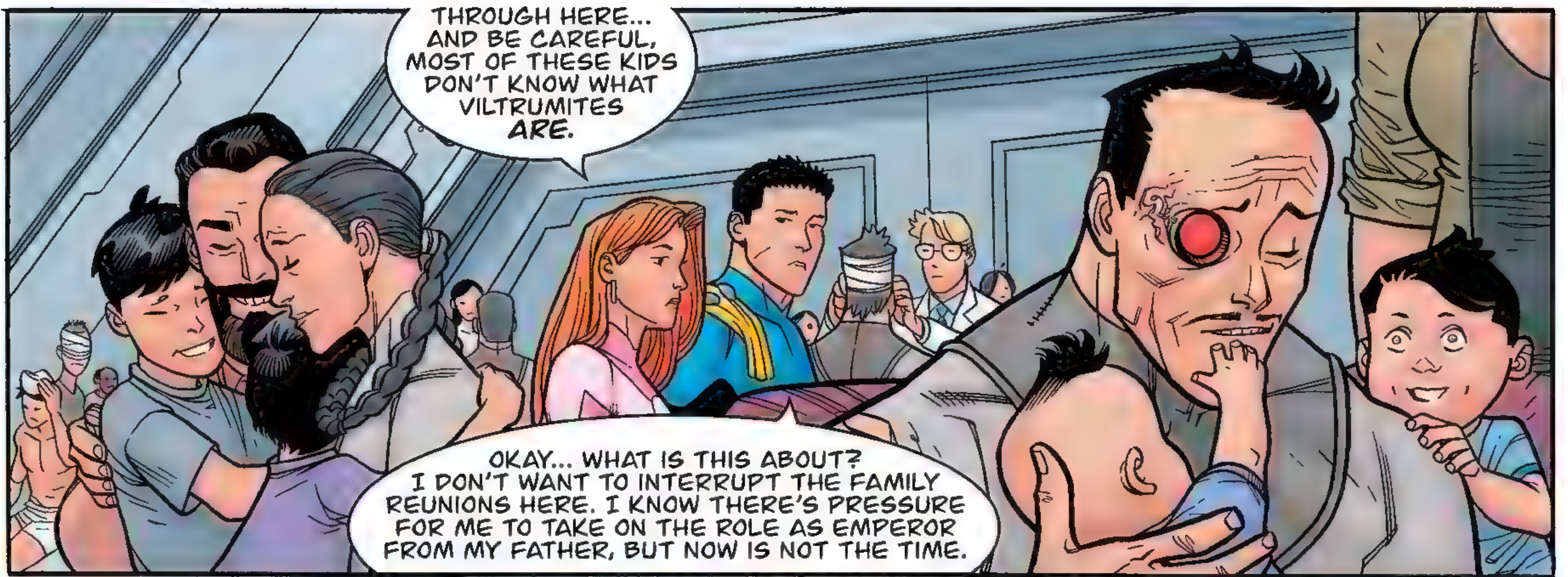


I USED TO FEAR WHAT I MIGHT DO IN THE NAME OF LOGIC...

TRUTH IS, I THINK THINGS ARE BETTER THIS WAY.



ALREADY OFF TO A GOOD START!





...MARKY.

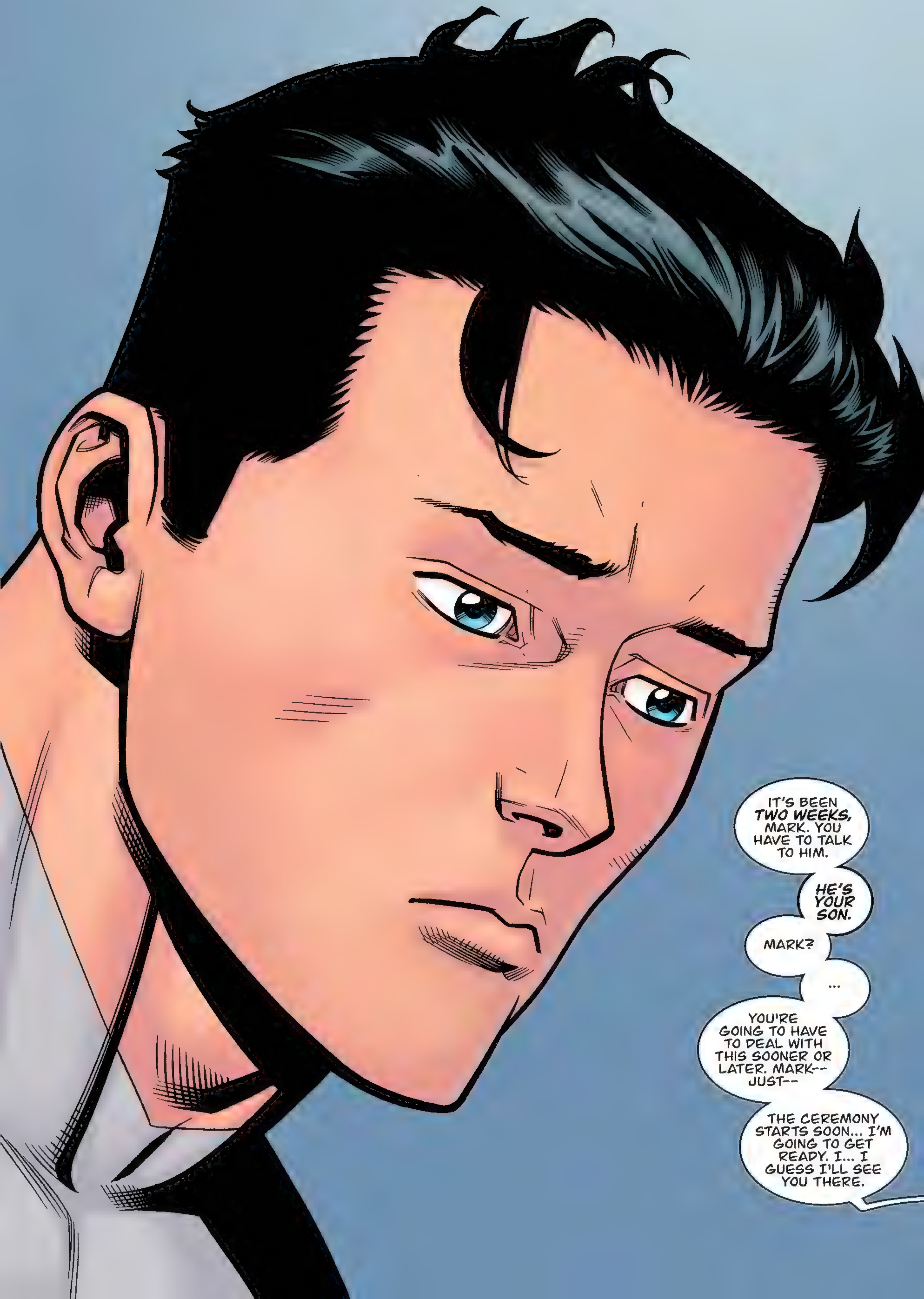
IS MY
MOM
REALLY
DEAD?



CHAPTER FIVE



ROTTLEY



IT'S BEEN
TWO WEEKS,
MARK. YOU
HAVE TO TALK
TO HIM.

HE'S
YOUR
SON.

MARK?

...

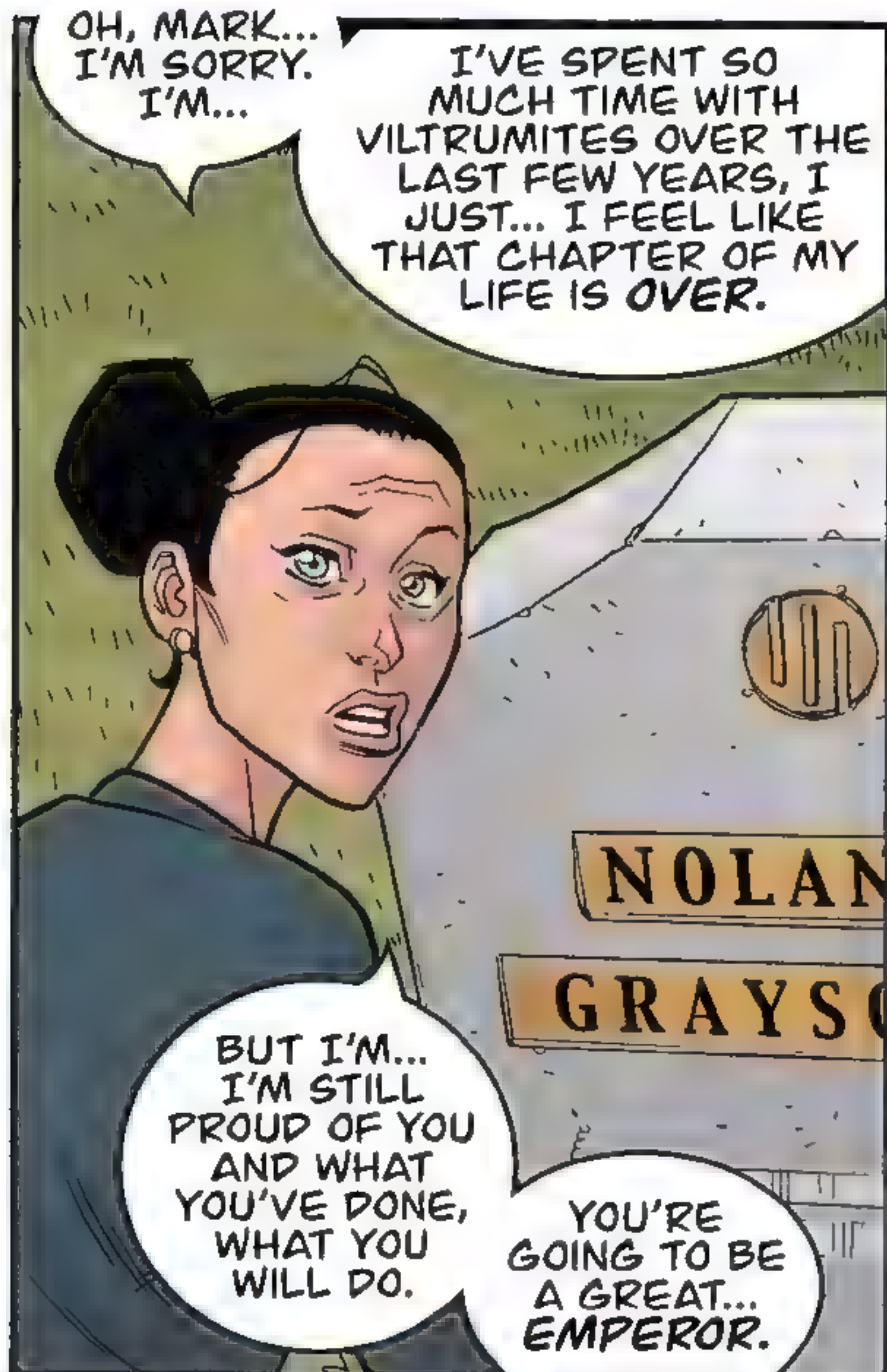
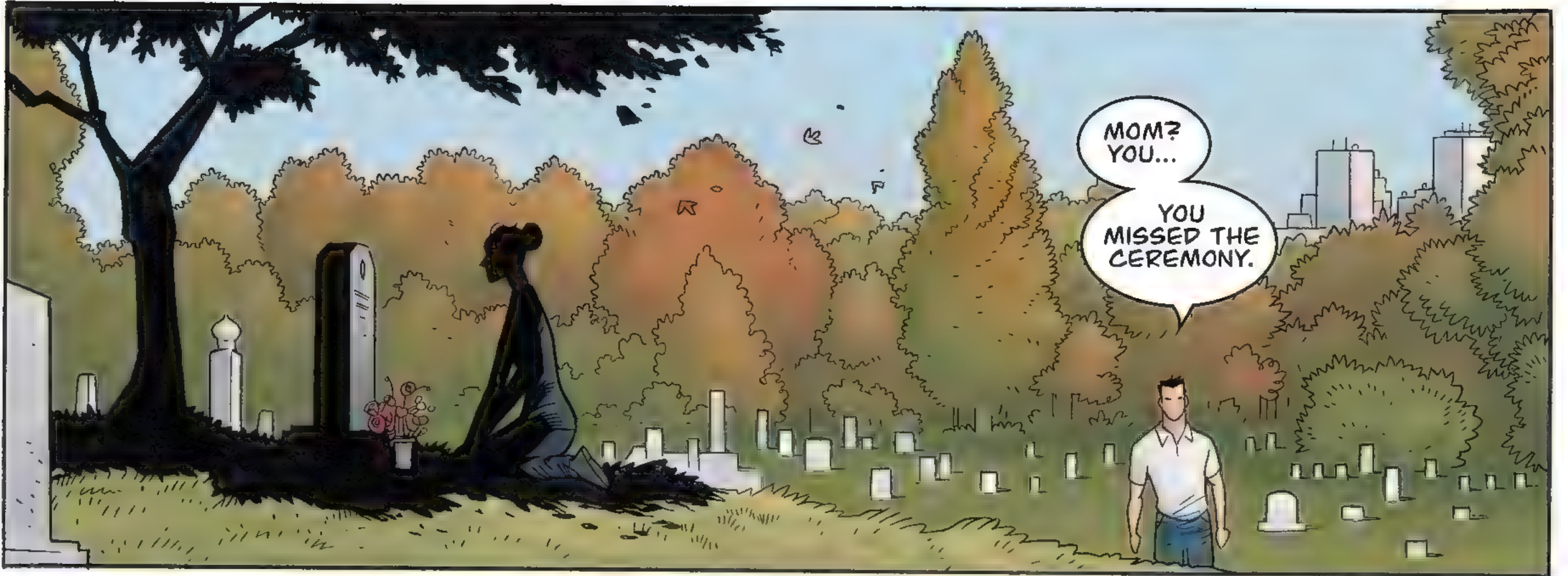
YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO DEAL WITH
THIS SOONER OR
LATER. MARK--
JUST--

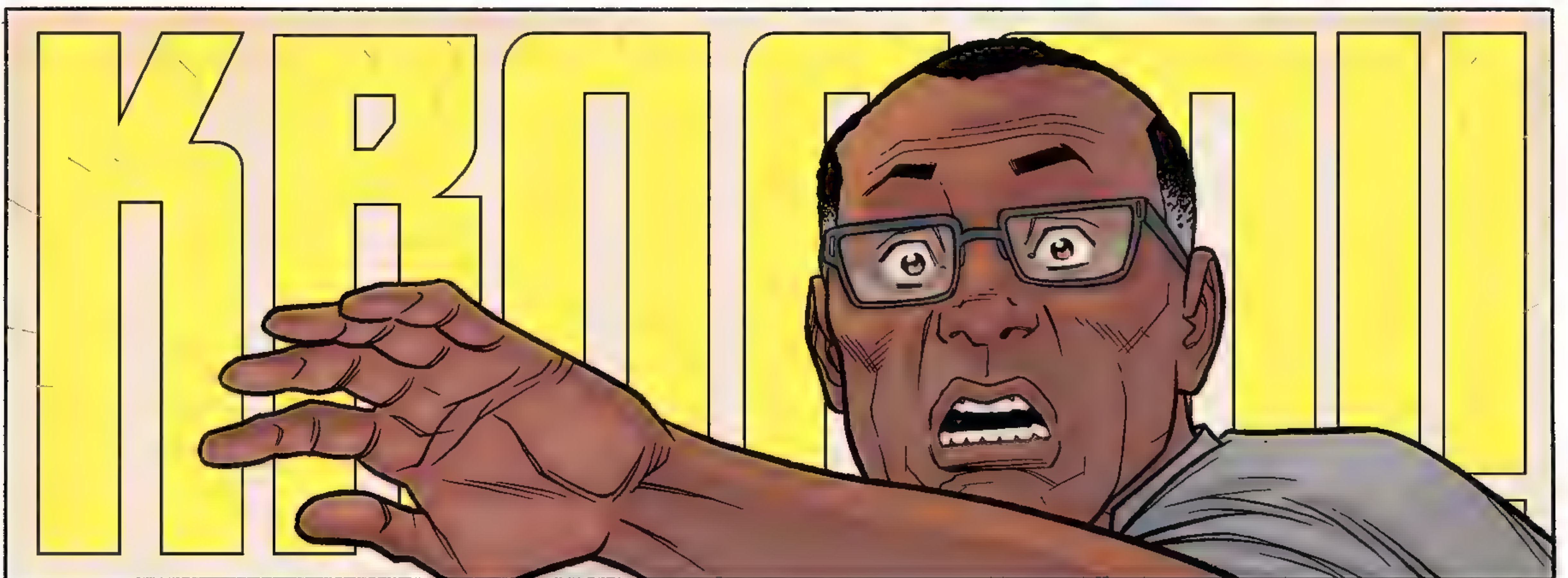
THE CEREMONY
STARTS SOON... I'M
GOING TO GET
READY. I... I
GUESS I'LL SEE
YOU THERE.



WHAT
MAKES
DADDY SO
SPECIAL?

NOT
NOW,
TERRA.









I HAVE TO BE GOING NOW. I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM TALESCRIA FOR FAR TOO LONG. IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO A NEW ERA... ONE FREE OF THE THREAT OF THRAGG.

THANK YOU, MY FRIEND. THIS COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

I REMEMBER HOW YOU GOT ME INVOLVED...

...

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE THINGS AWKWARD. I SEE THE GOOD IN IT, WHAT YOU DID. I TRULY BELIEVE OLIVER WOULD UNDERSTAND.

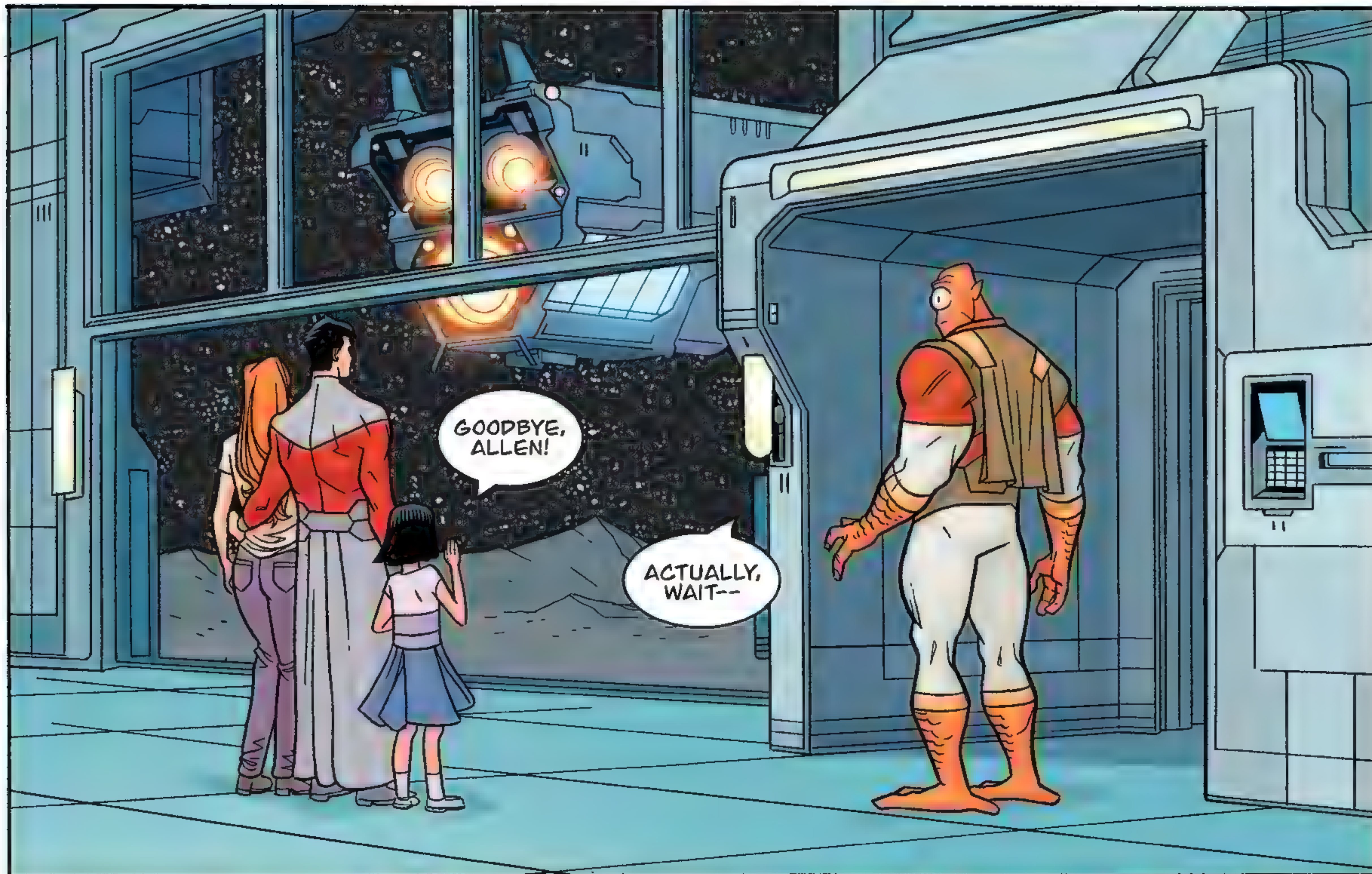
BUT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS NEVER GOING TO BE LIKE IT WAS. I JUST... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO BACK TO THAT.

I UNDERSTAND.

AS LEADER OF THE COALITION... I CAN LIVE WITH THAT SACRIFICE FOR THE GOOD OF MY PEOPLE.

YOU'RE A BETTER LEADER THAN A FRIEND...

...AND THAT'S OKAY. WE'VE HIT THAT AGE WHERE RESPONSIBILITY... IT GETS IN THE WAY.



I ASSUME THAT BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT THE COALITION STANDS FOR THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE... IF WE EVER NEED YOU.

BUT AFTER OUR LAST CONVERSATION... I WONDER IF I NEED TO MAKE SURE.



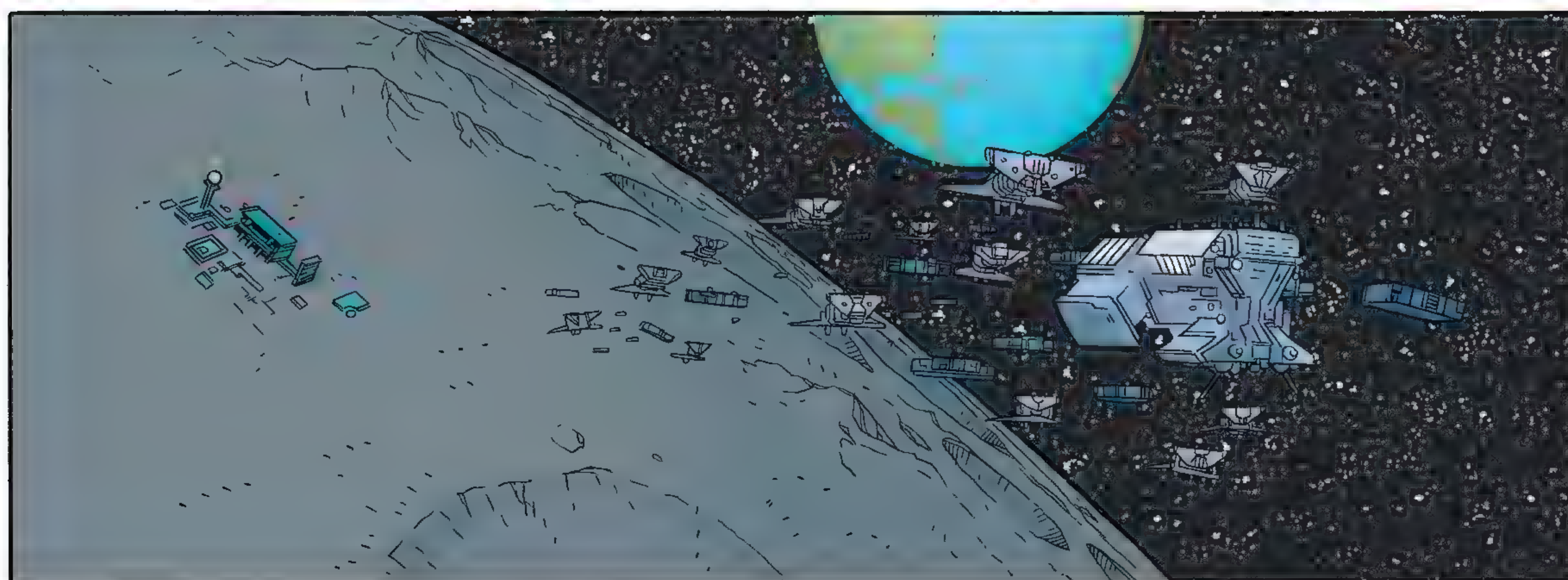
OF COURSE, ALLEN. AS LONG AS THE SHARED GOAL IS SOMETHING WE AGREE WITH, WE WILL ALWAYS COME TO YOUR AID.

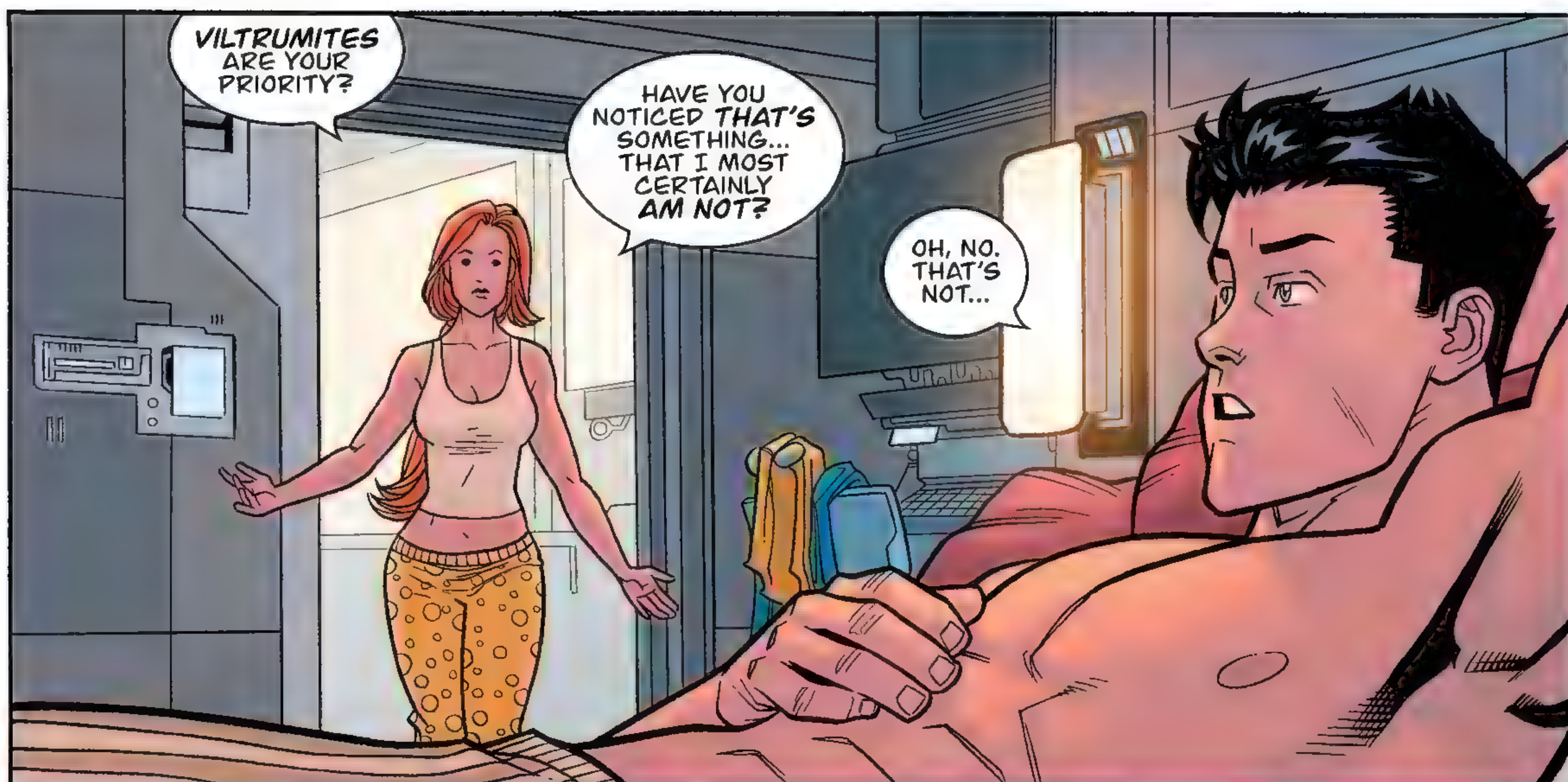
BUT NOT IF IT ENDANGERS VILTRUMITES. THAT I WILL NOT DO. THEY ARE MY PRIORITY NOW.



UNDERSTOOD.

FAREWELL.

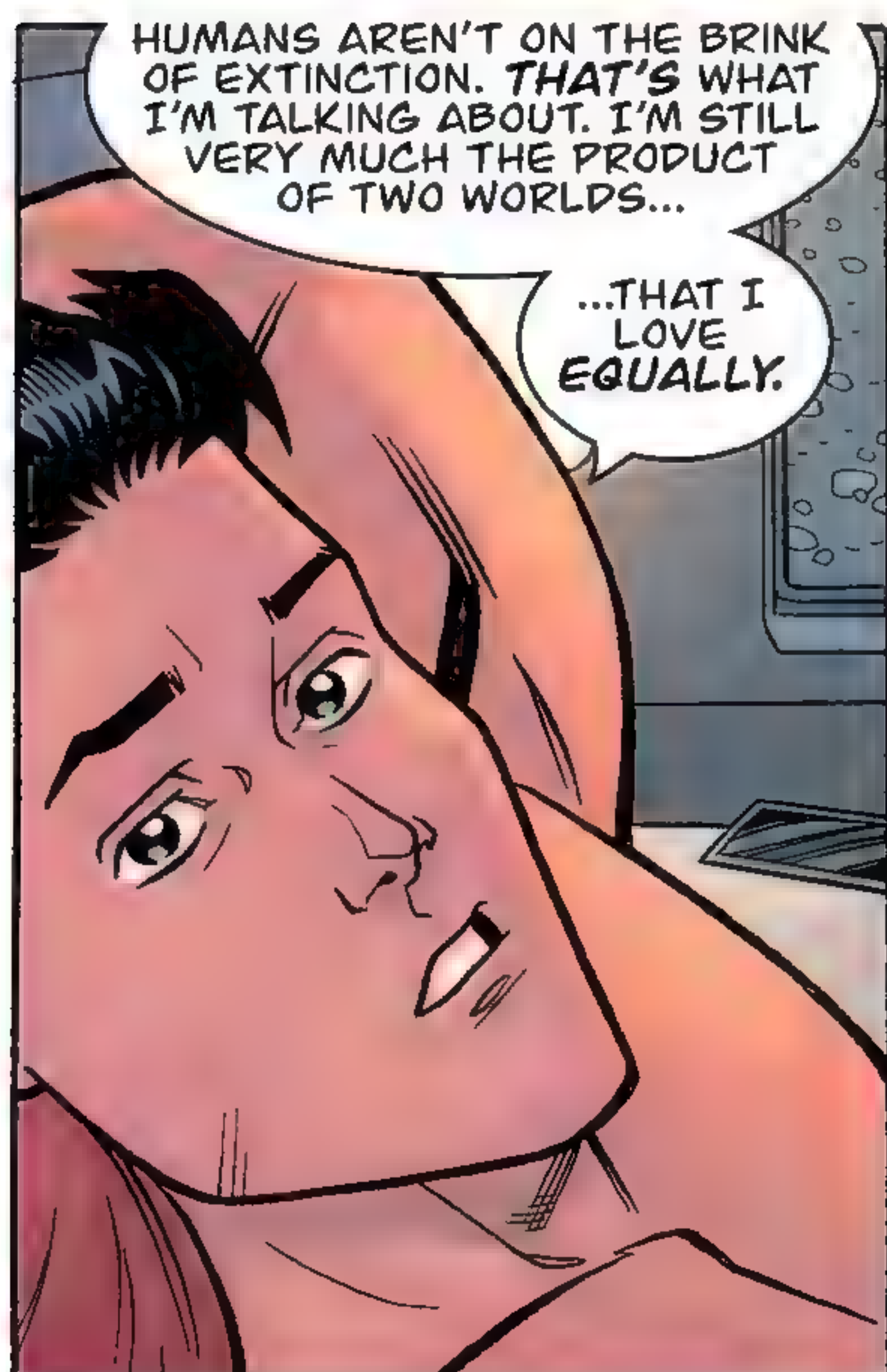




VILTRUMITES
ARE YOUR
PRIORITY?

HAVE YOU
NOTICED THAT'S
SOMETHING...
THAT I MOST
CERTAINLY
AM NOT?

OH, NO.
THAT'S
NOT...



HUMANS AREN'T ON THE BRINK
OF EXTINCTION. **THAT'S** WHAT
I'M TALKING ABOUT. I'M STILL
VERY MUCH THE PRODUCT
OF TWO WORLDS...

...THAT I
LOVE
EQUALLY.



I'M GOING
TO NEED IT
TO BE A
SIXTY-FOUR
KIND OF
DEAL.

HOW
ABOUT
FIFTY-ONE,
FORTY-
NINE?

THAT'S
THE BEST
I CAN
DO.

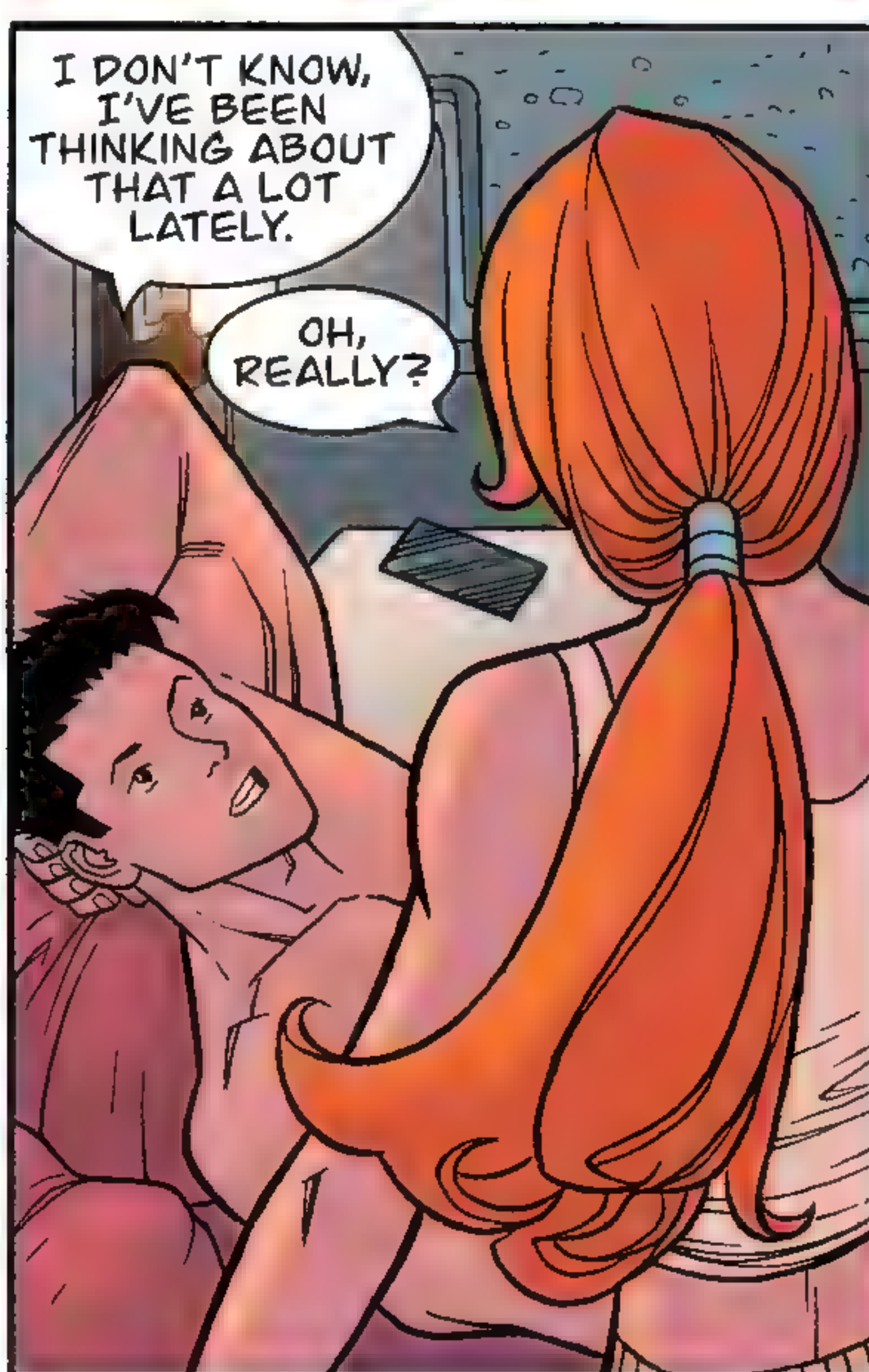


I'LL
TAKE
IT.



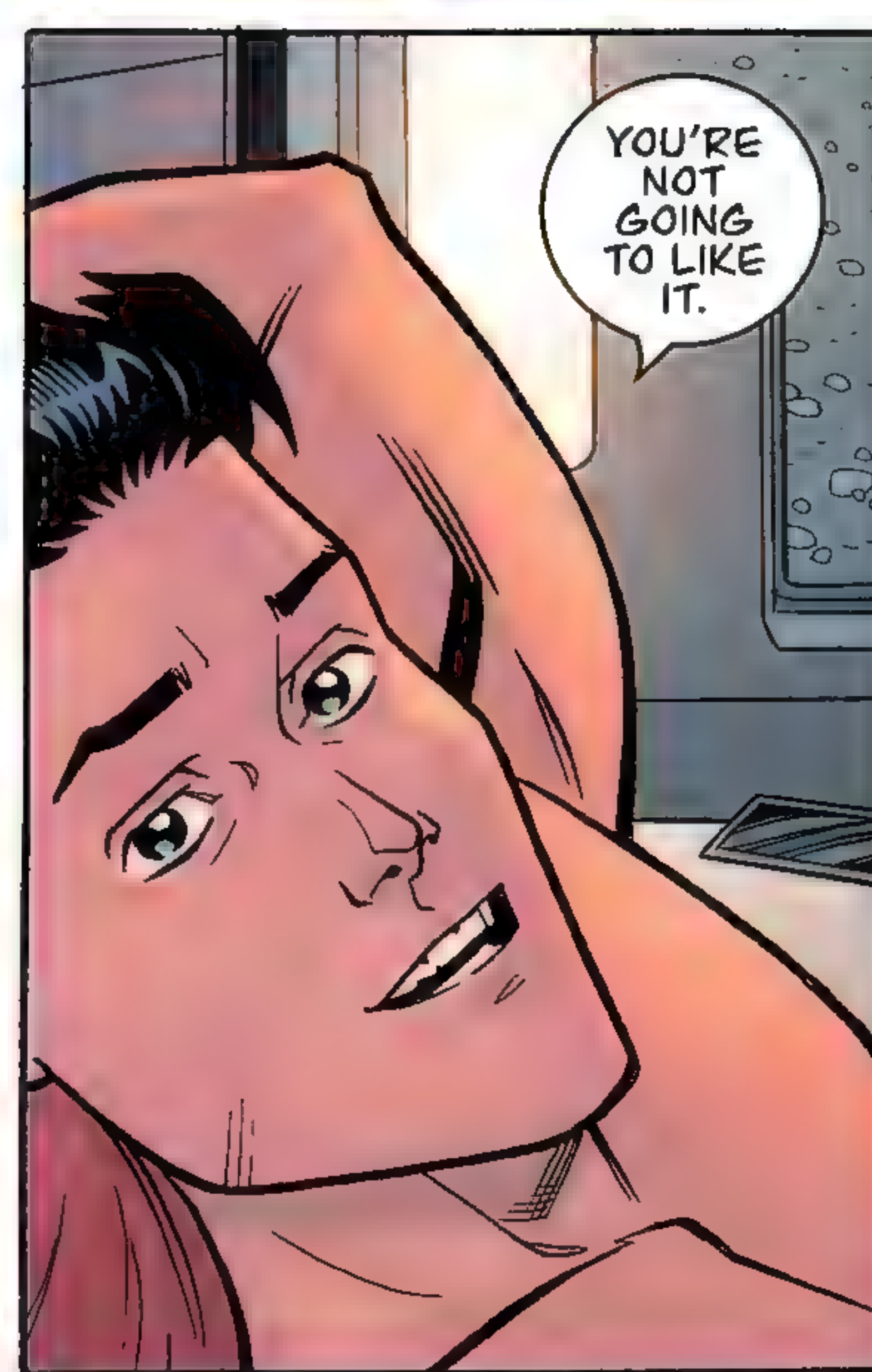
SO THIS
IS IT FOR
US?

WE LIVE ON THE
MOON WITH YOUR
PEOPLE... VISITING
EARTH FROM TIME
TO TIME?

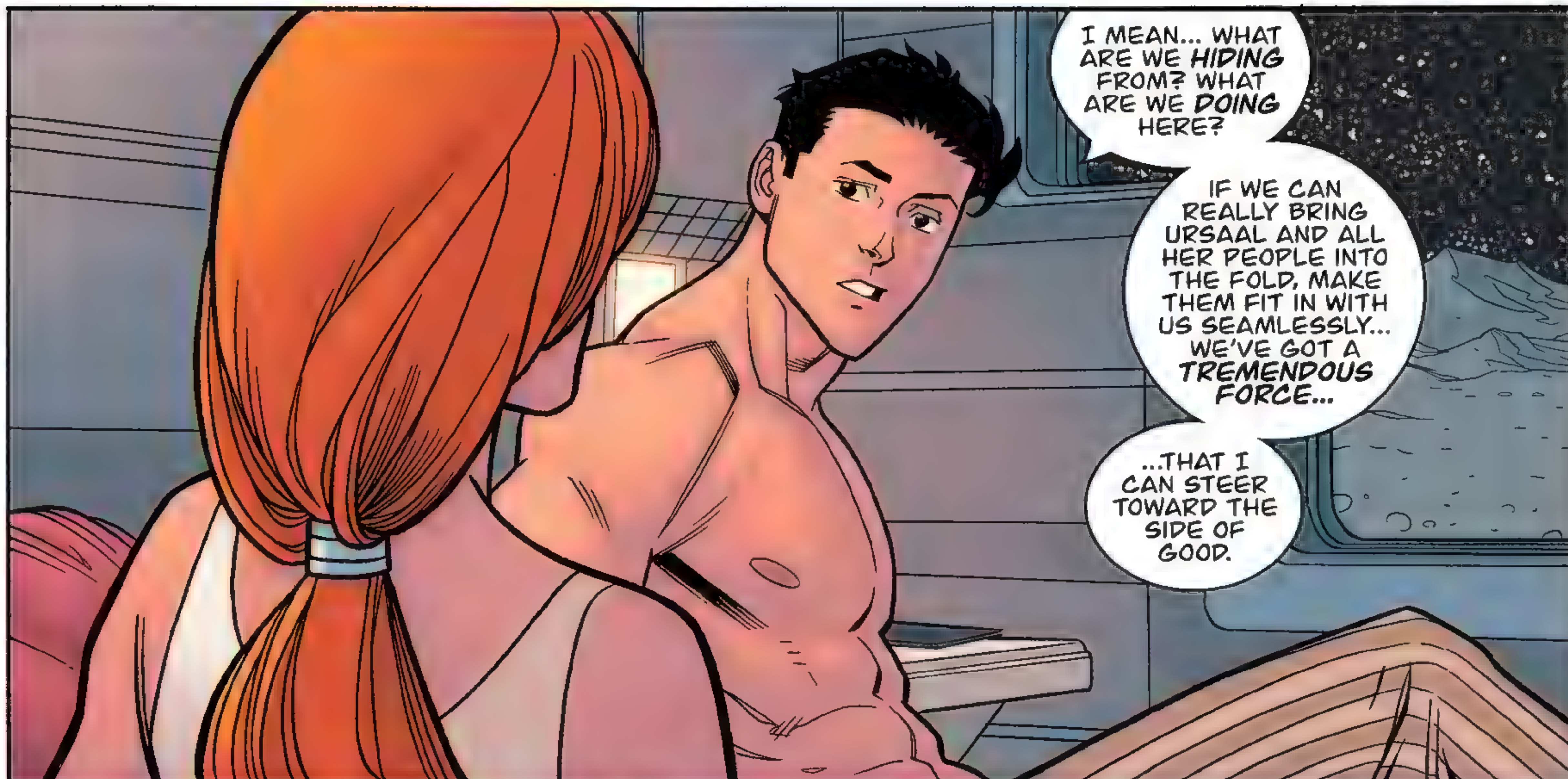


I DON'T KNOW,
I'VE BEEN
THINKING ABOUT
THAT A LOT
LATELY.

OH,
REALLY?



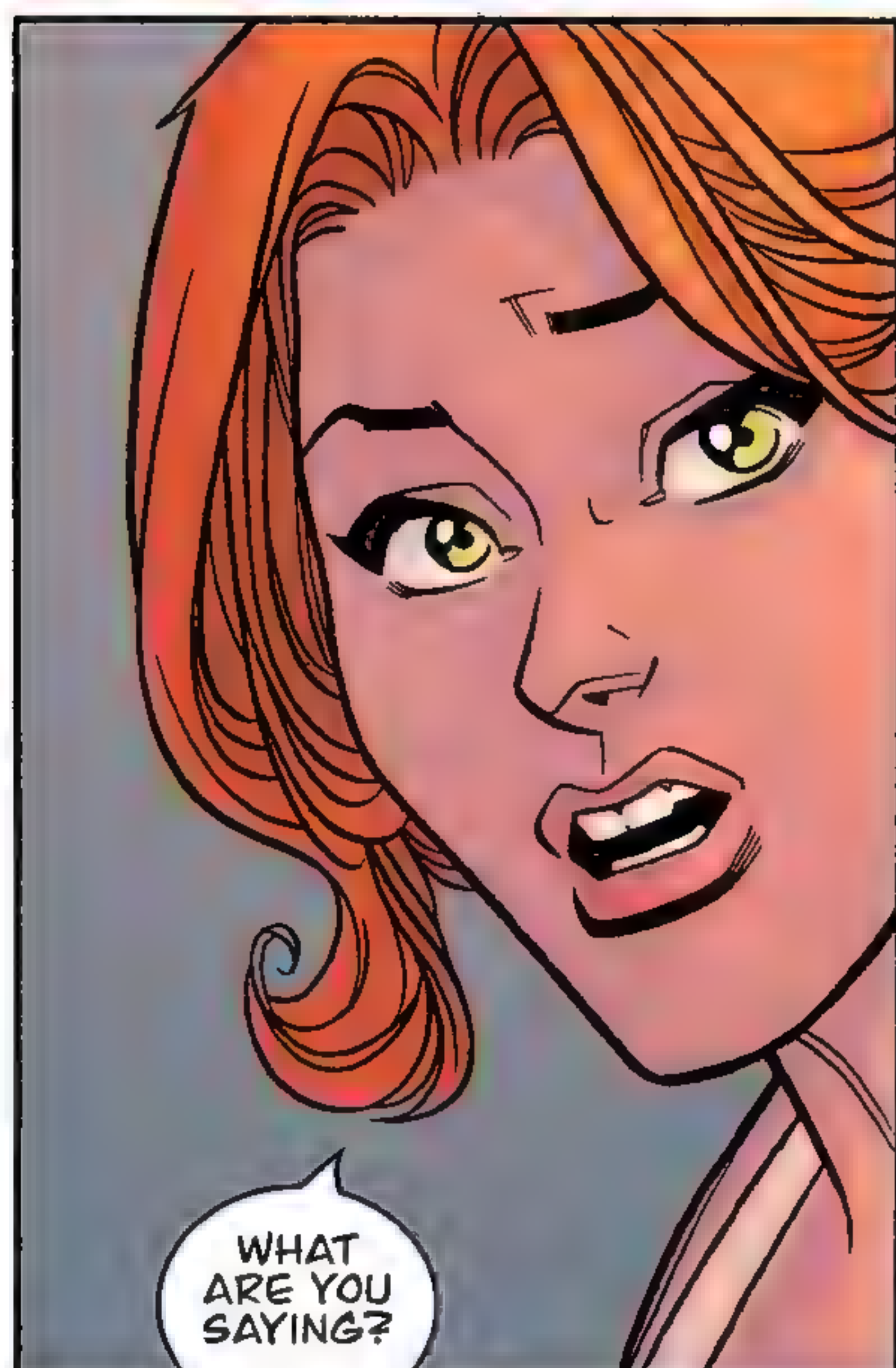
YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
TO LIKE
IT.



I MEAN... WHAT ARE WE HIDING FROM? WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

IF WE CAN REALLY BRING URSAL AND ALL HER PEOPLE INTO THE FOLD, MAKE THEM FIT IN WITH US SEAMLESSLY... WE'VE GOT A TREMENDOUS FORCE...

...THAT I CAN STEER TOWARD THE SIDE OF GOOD.



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

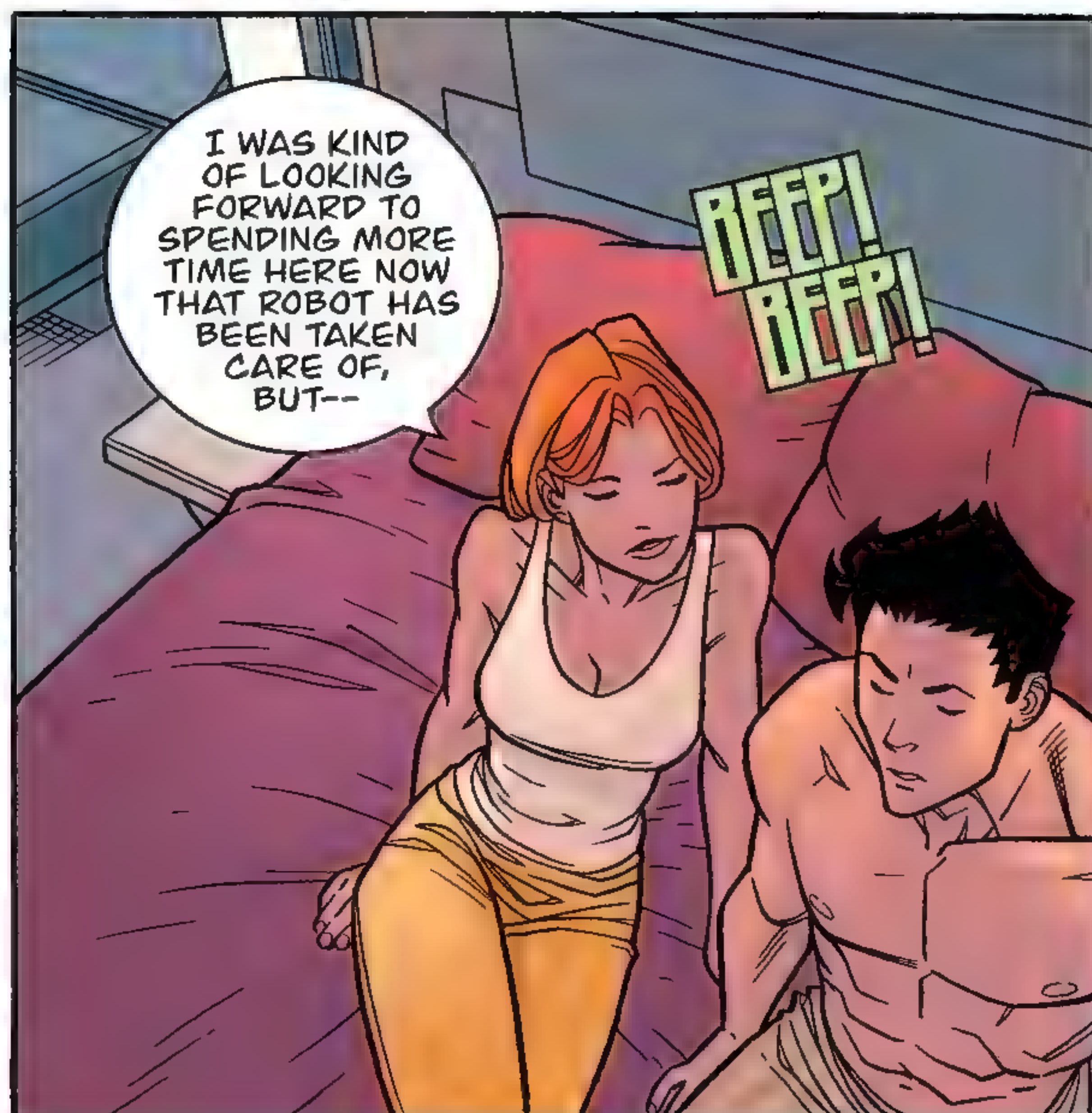


I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING YET. I'M JUST THINKING...

I'M THINKING WE MIGHT BE WASTED HERE... WHEN WE'RE NEEDED...



...OUT THERE.



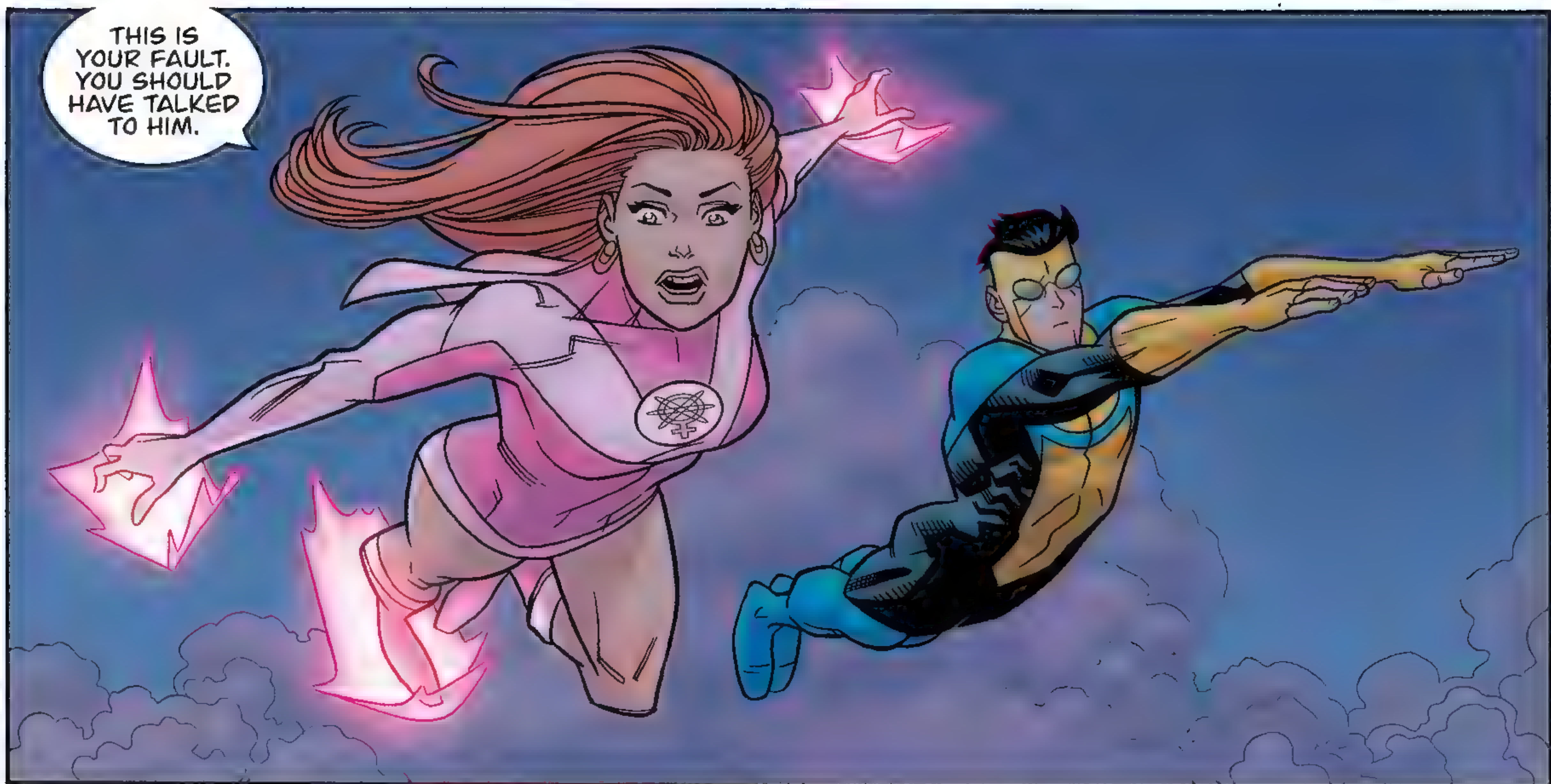
I WAS KIND OF LOOKING FORWARD TO SPENDING MORE TIME HERE NOW THAT ROBOT HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF, BUT--

BEEP!
BEEP!



IMMORTAL? WHAT IS IT?

THERE'S A SITUATION THAT I THINK YOU MIGHT WANT TO HANDLE PERSONALLY.



THIS IS YOUR FAULT. YOU SHOULD HAVE TALKED TO HIM.



IT'S COMPLICATED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY. HOW DO I LOOK HIM IN THE EYE AND TELL HIM WHY I WASN'T AROUND? WHY HE DOESN'T KNOW ME... HOW HE WAS CONCEIVED.



WE'VE NEVER TOLD TERRA HOW SHE WAS CONCEIVED.



...



IT'S COMPLICATED. HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE'S A VILTRUMITE.

HE DEFINITELY KNOWS SOMETHING...



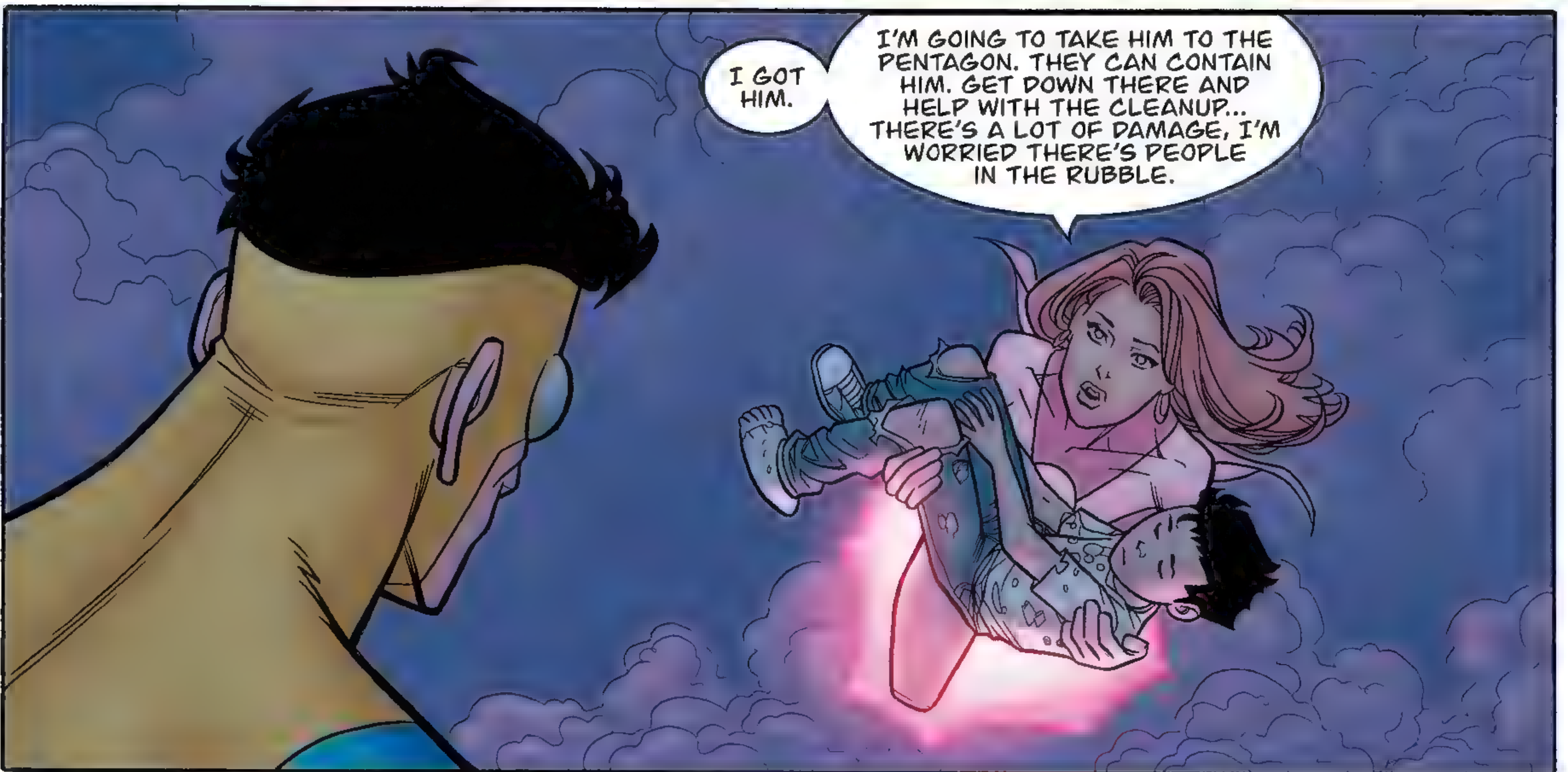
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?!!

NO
TURN
ON RED

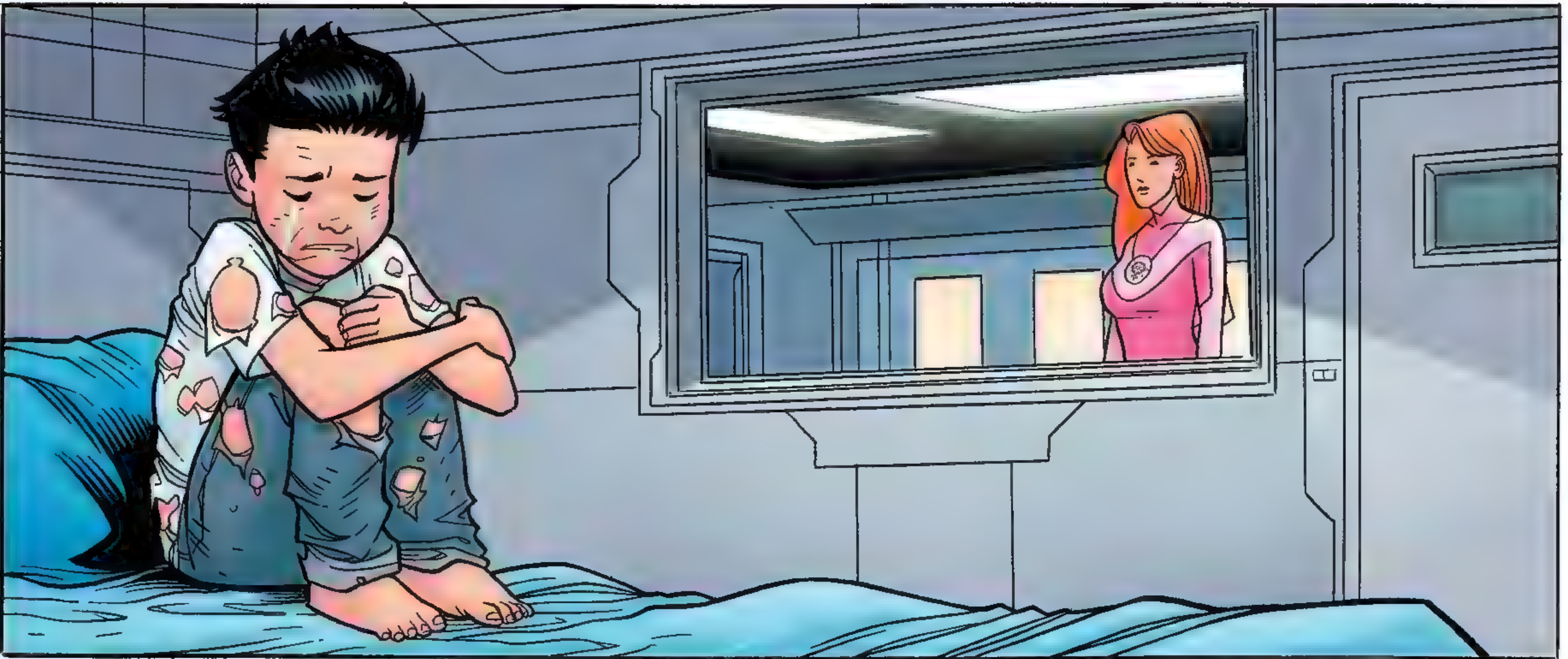
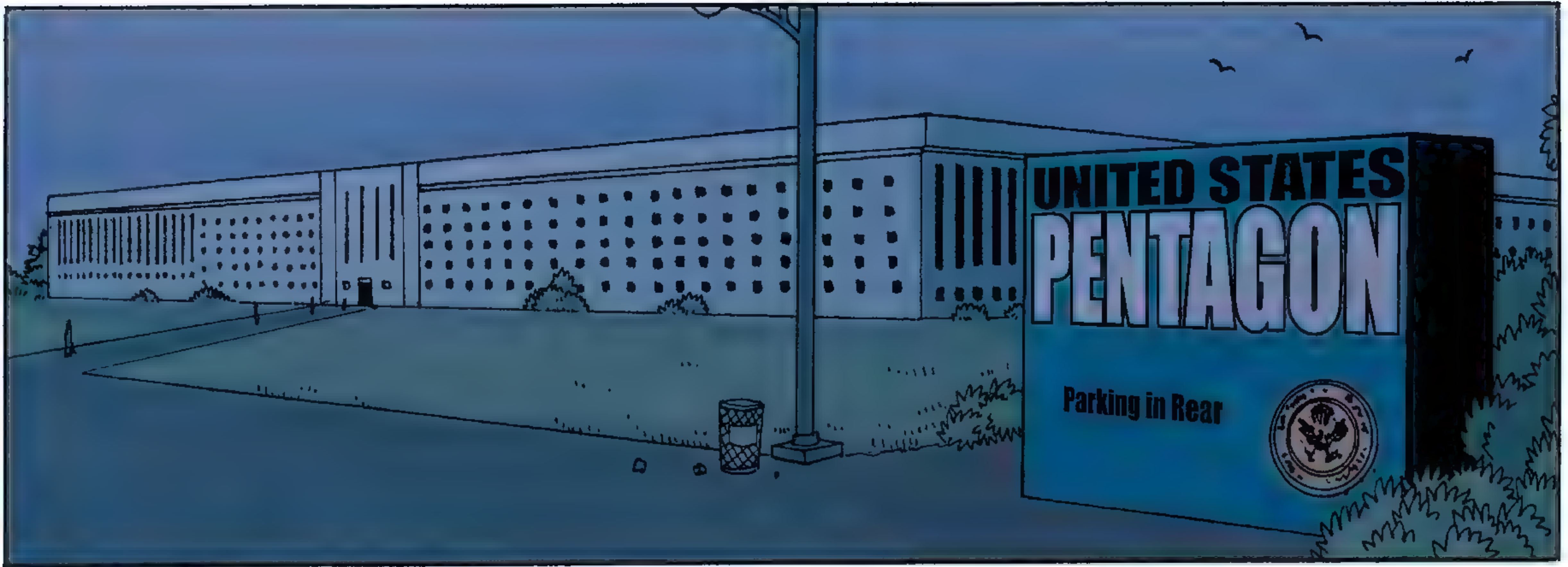
ONLY











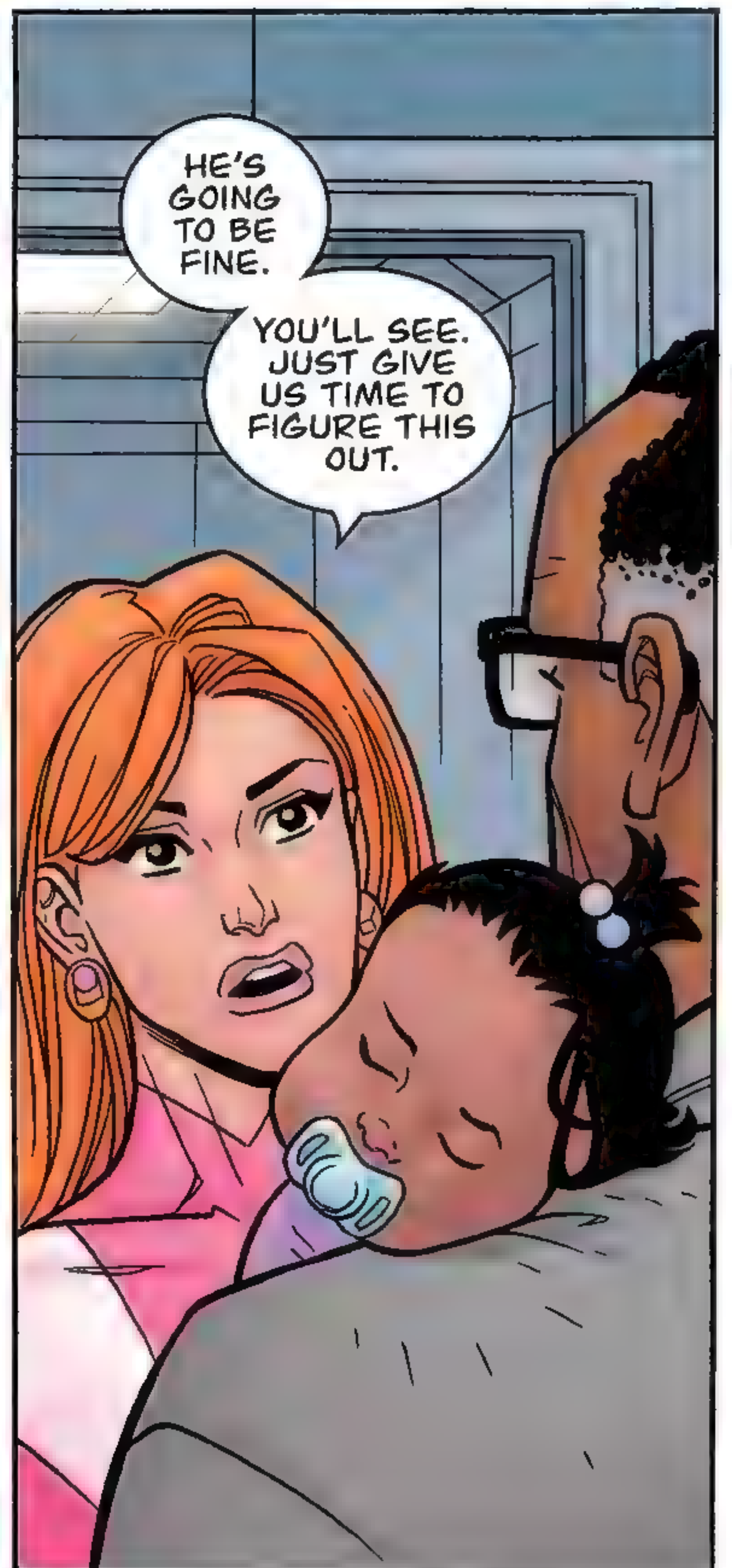
MY GOD--
WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!

HE'S ONLY
HERE UNTIL
HE LEARNS
TO CONTROL
HIMSELF.



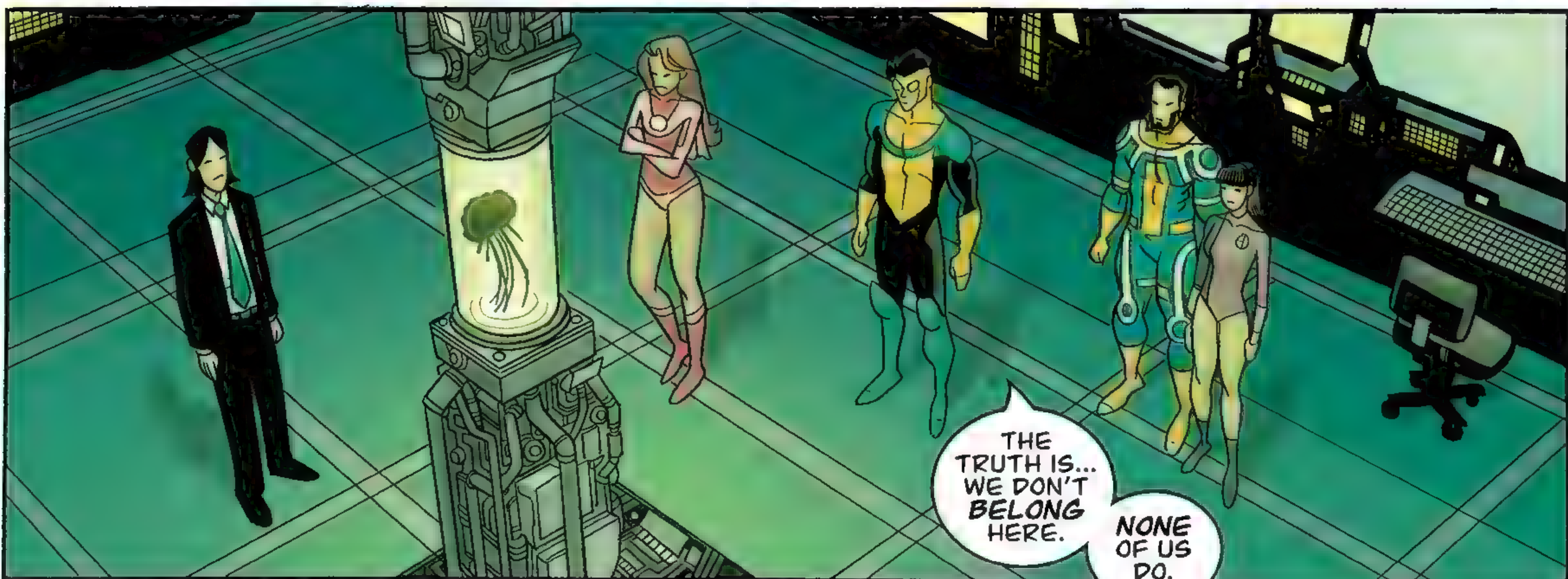
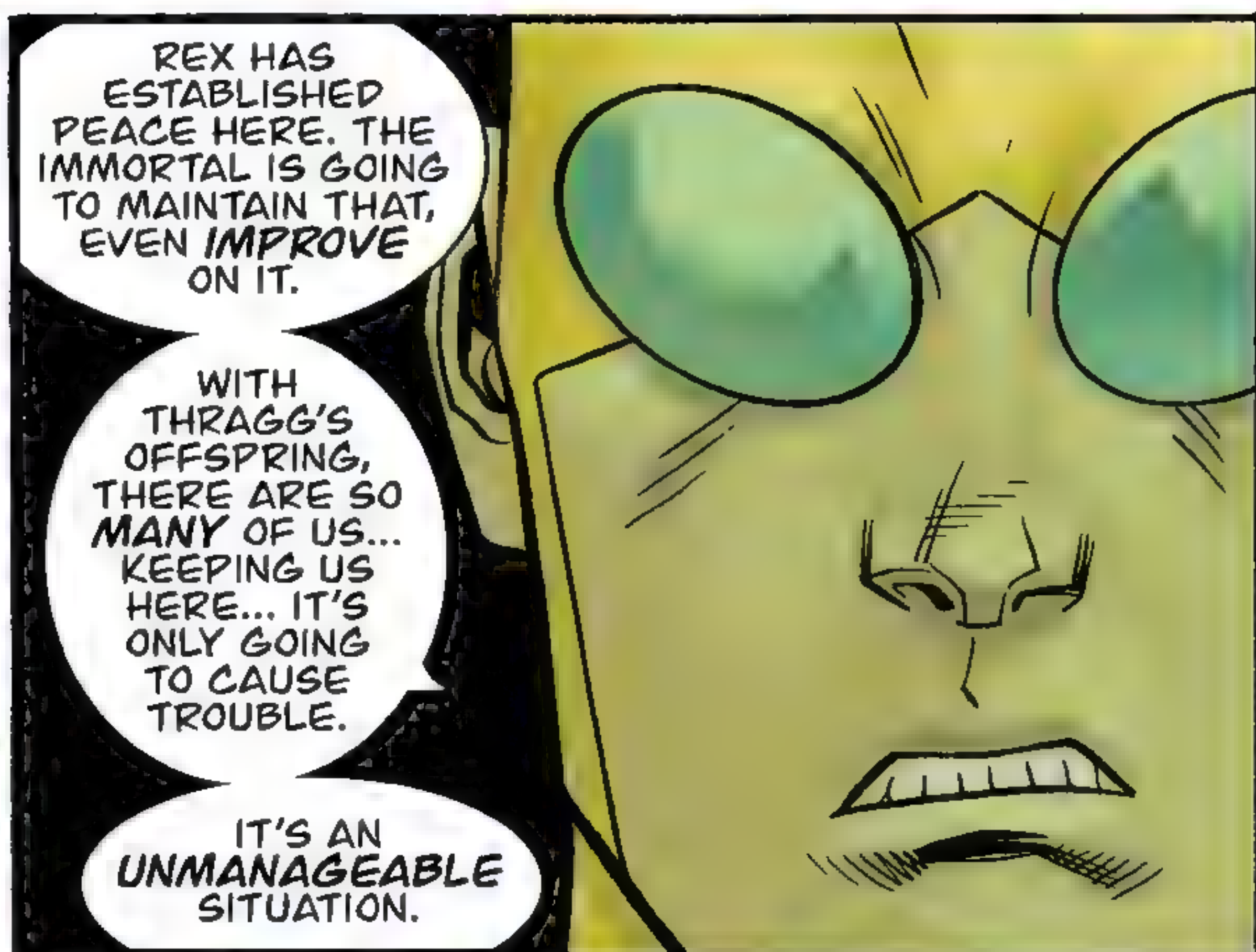
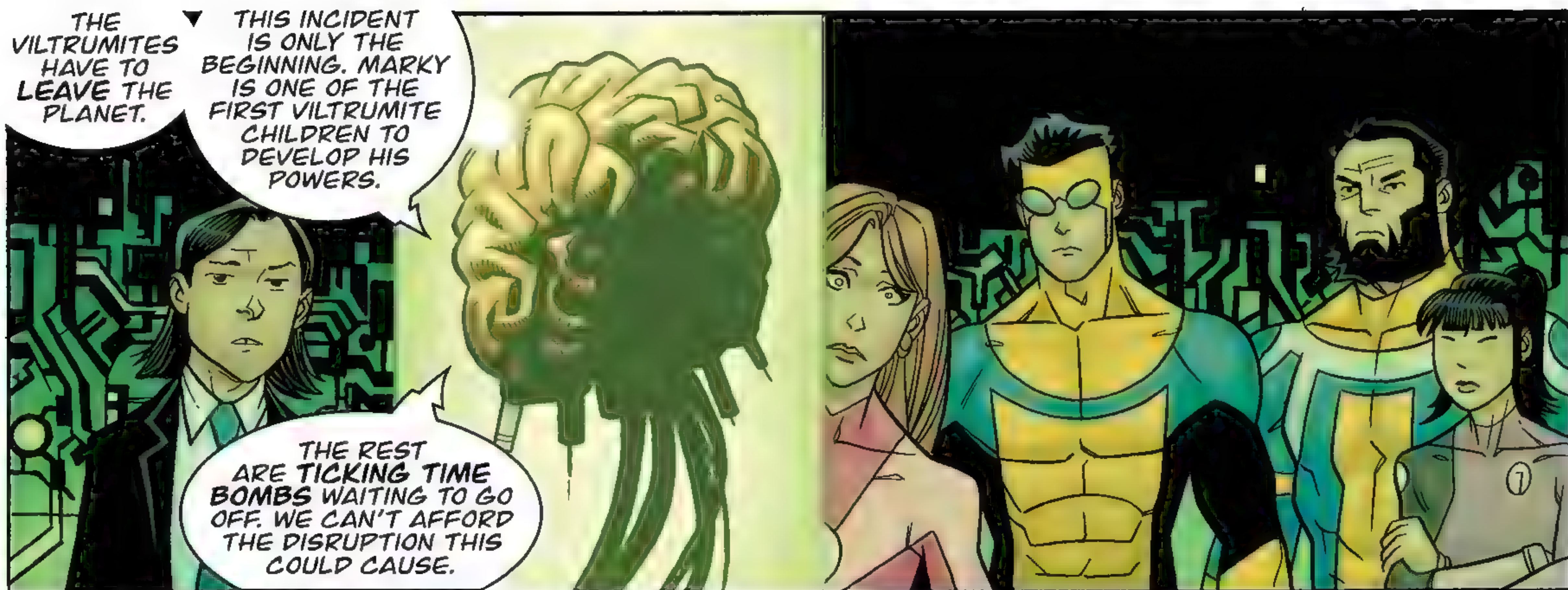
HE'S
SCARED.
LET ME
TALK TO
HIM.

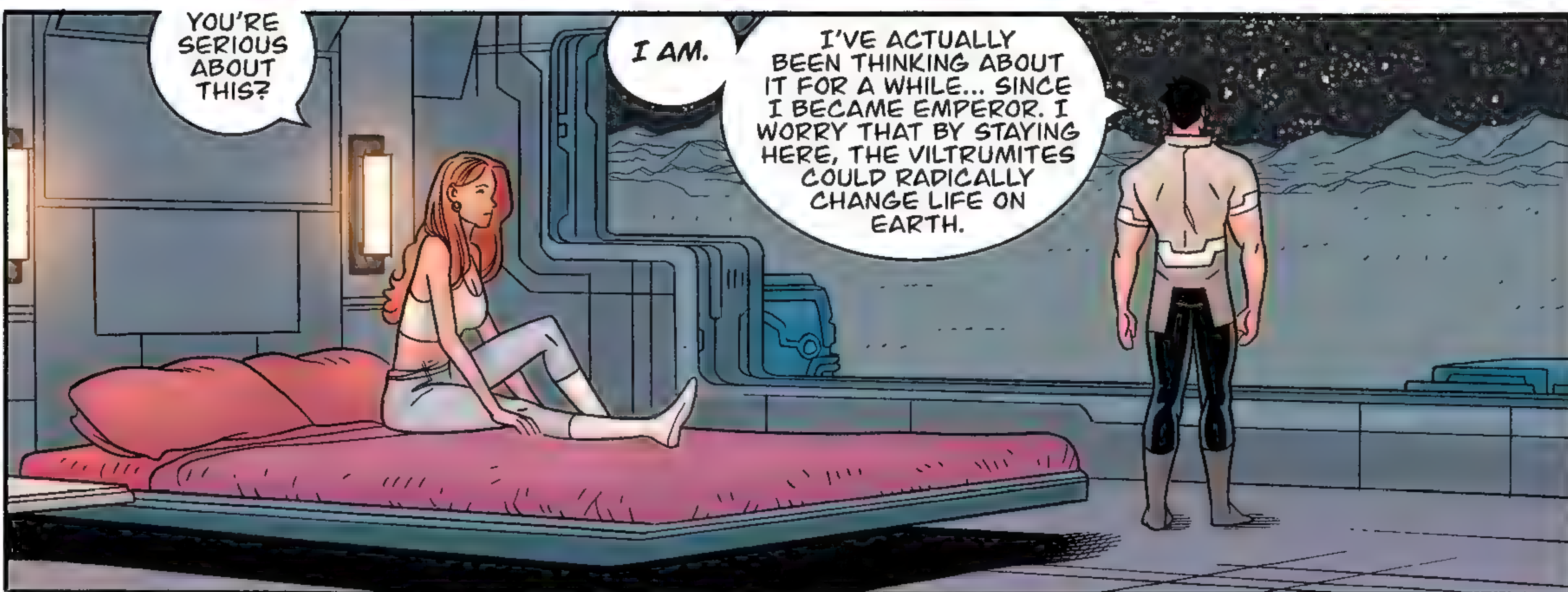
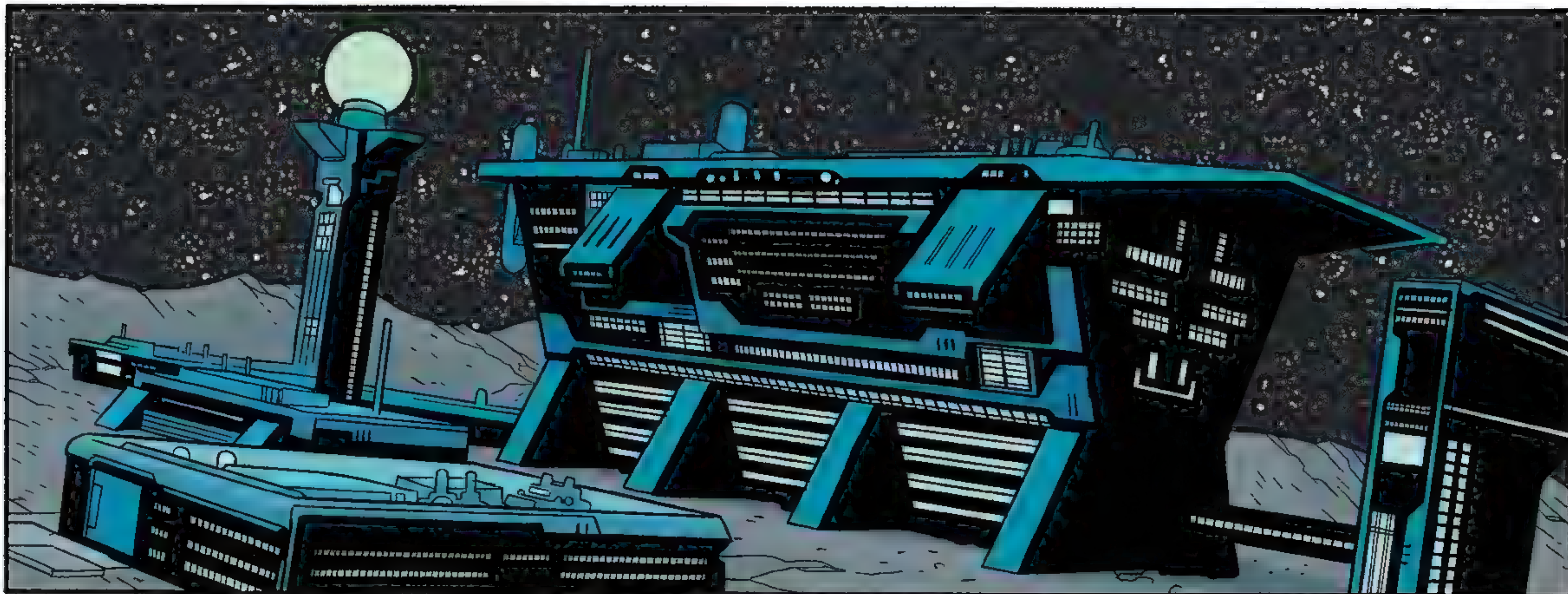
ANISSA AND I...
WE SHOULD HAVE
TOLD HIM. I SEE
THAT NOW. I
JUST... I WANTED
HIM TO FEEL...
NORMAL.



HE'S
GOING
TO BE
FINE.

YOU'LL SEE.
JUST GIVE
US TIME TO
FIGURE THIS
OUT.





YOU'RE
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS?

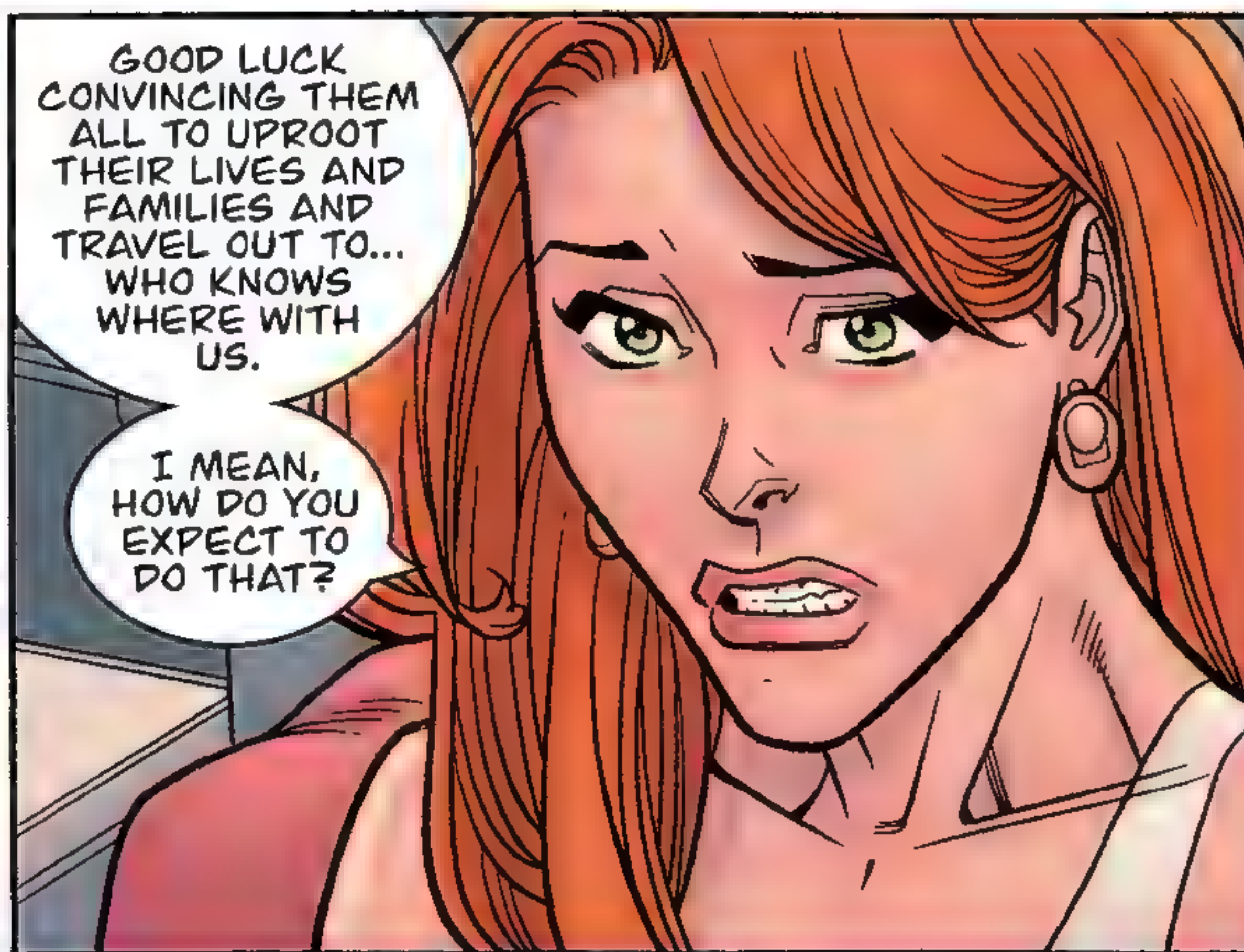
I AM.

I'VE ACTUALLY
BEEN THINKING ABOUT
IT FOR A WHILE... SINCE
I BECAME EMPEROR. I
WORRY THAT BY STAYING
HERE, THE VILTRUMITES
COULD RADICALLY
CHANGE LIFE ON
EARTH.



THERE'S SO MANY
OF US NOW... I
WORRY THAT COULD
CHANGE THE
PLANET FOR THE
WORST, GET RID OF
WHAT MAKES IT
SPECIAL IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

I JUST...
I CAN'T
ALLOW
THAT TO
HAPPEN.



GOOD LUCK
CONVINCING THEM
ALL TO UPROOT
THEIR LIVES AND
FAMILIES AND
TRAVEL OUT TO...
WHO KNOWS
WHERE WITH
US.

I MEAN,
HOW DO YOU
EXPECT TO
DO THAT?



I'M THEIR
EMPEROR.

I'LL
JUST
EMP...

...ER...

...OR...
THEM.


I WAS
TRYING A
THING
THERE. IT
DIDN'T
WORK.





CHAPTER SIX





MARKY, I KNOW
YOU'VE NOTICED BY
NOW YOU'RE NOT LIKE
NORMAL KIDS. YOUR
MOTHER CHOSE TO
AVOID THE SUBJECT,
BUT NOW THAT SHE'S
GONE AND YOU'VE
GOTTEN YOUR
POWERS... IT'S TIME
YOU KNEW THE
TRUTH.

YOU'RE
OLD ENOUGH
FOR ME TO TELL
YOU WHERE YOU
REALLY COME
FROM.



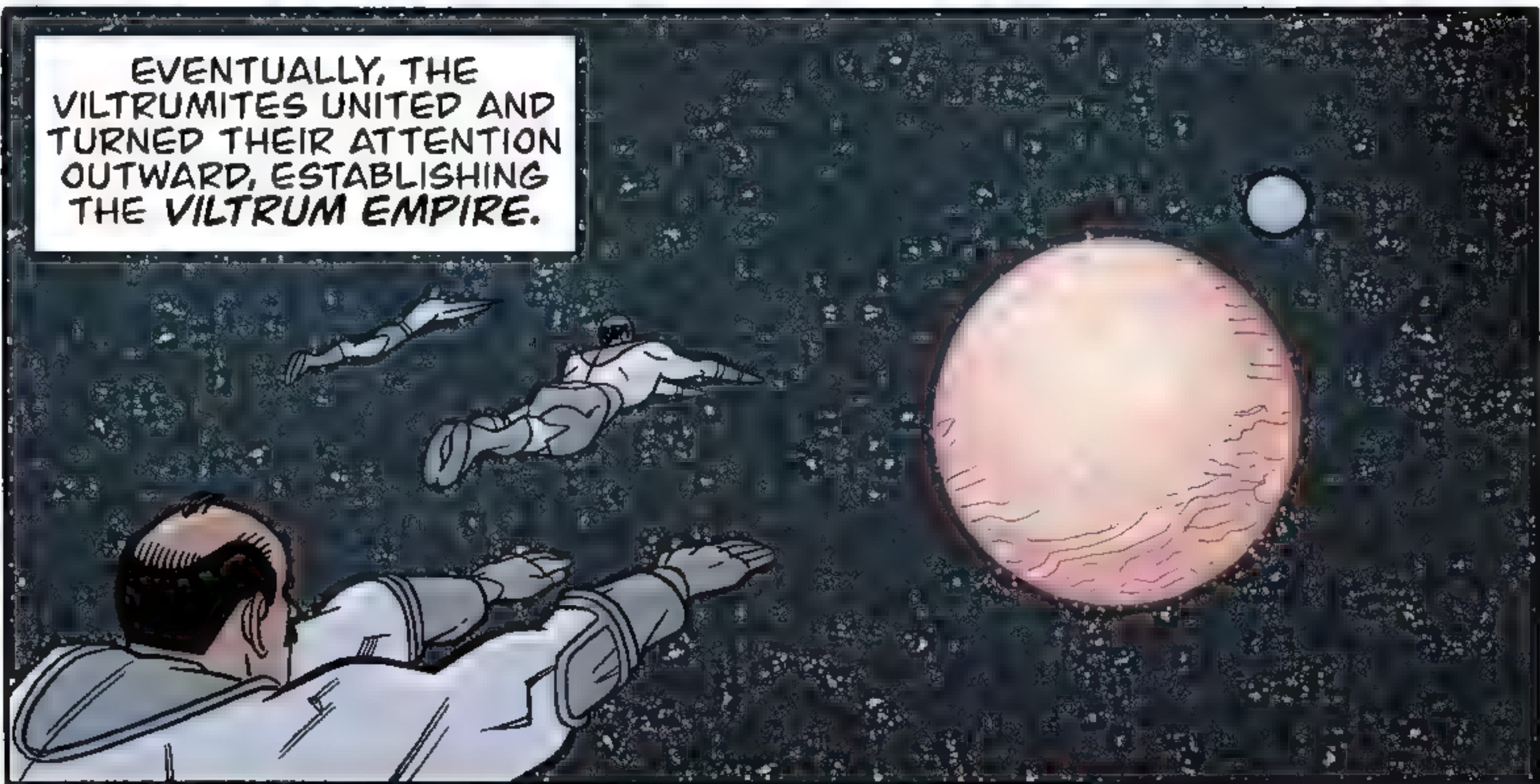
MILLIONS OF MILES FROM HERE, OUT IN DEEP SPACE, THERE WAS A PLANET CALLED **VILTRUM**.

YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS BORN ON THIS PLANET.

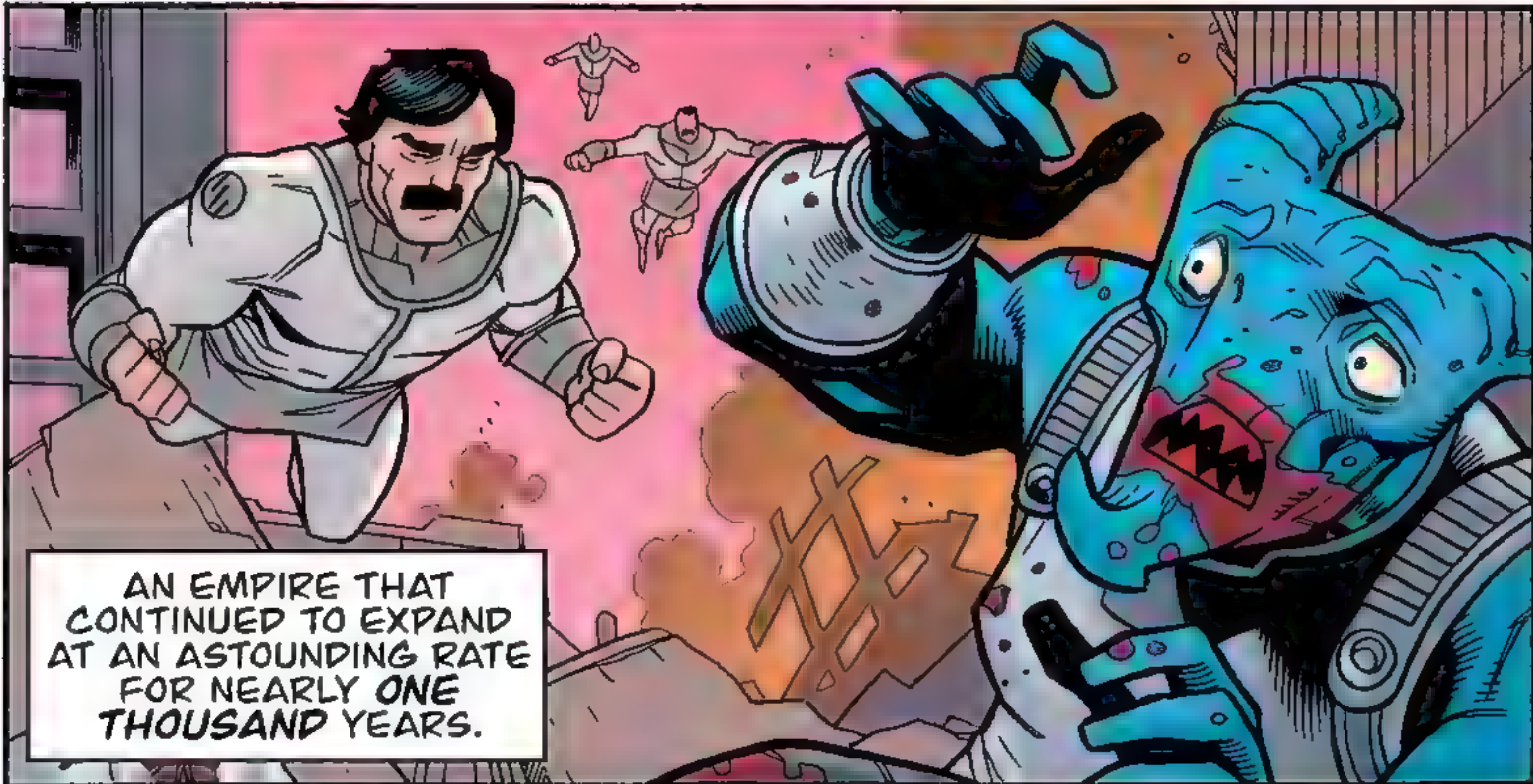


VILTRUMITES WERE A VIOLENT RACE WHO VALUED **STRENGTH** ABOVE ALL ELSE.

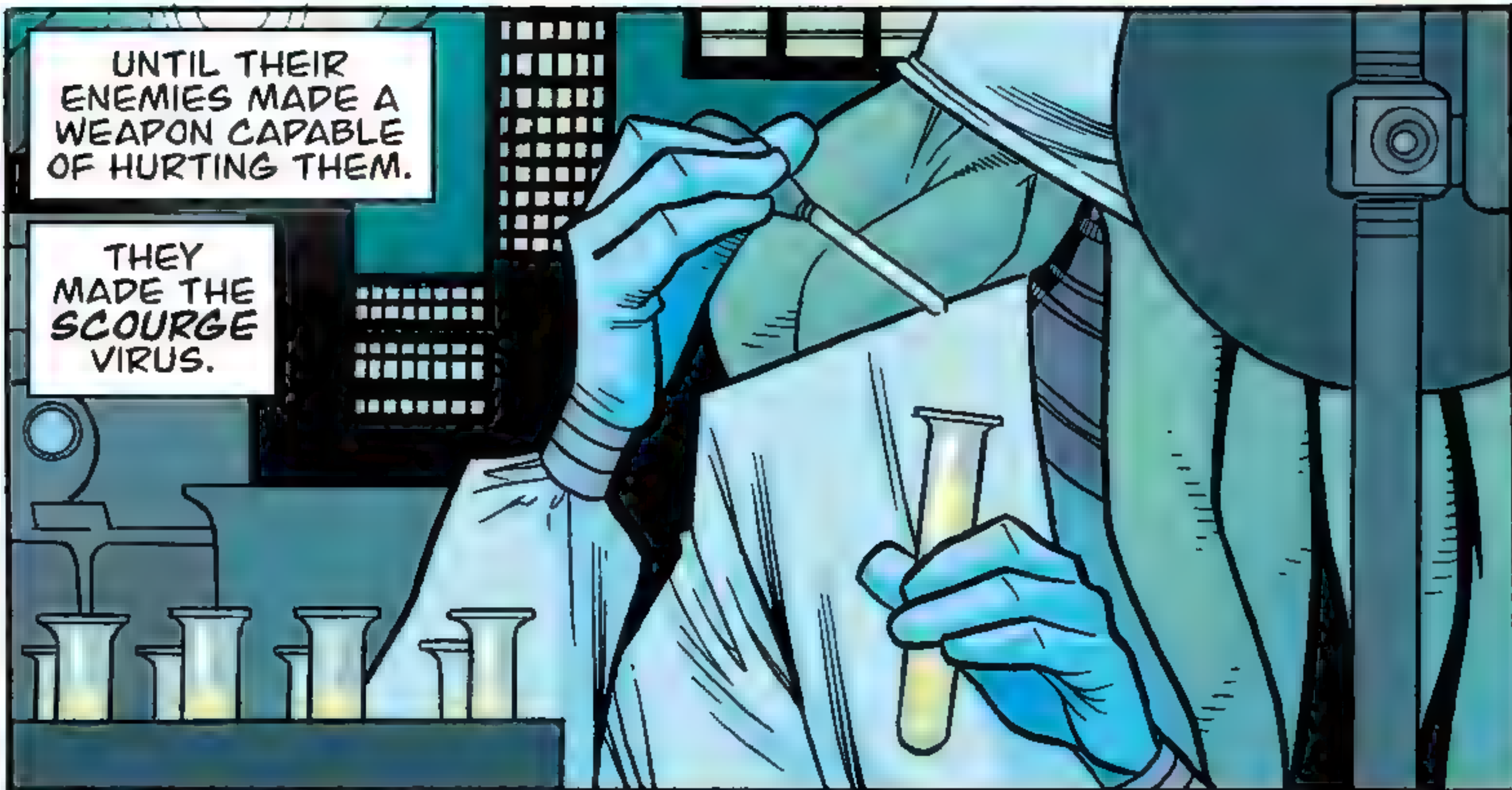
TO RID THEMSELVES OF ANY WEAKNESS, THEY SLAUGHTERED EACH OTHER UNTIL THEY WERE BRED INTO THE VILTRUMITES OF TODAY.



EVENTUALLY, THE VILTRUMITES UNITED AND TURNED THEIR ATTENTION OUTWARD, ESTABLISHING THE **VILTRUM EMPIRE**.

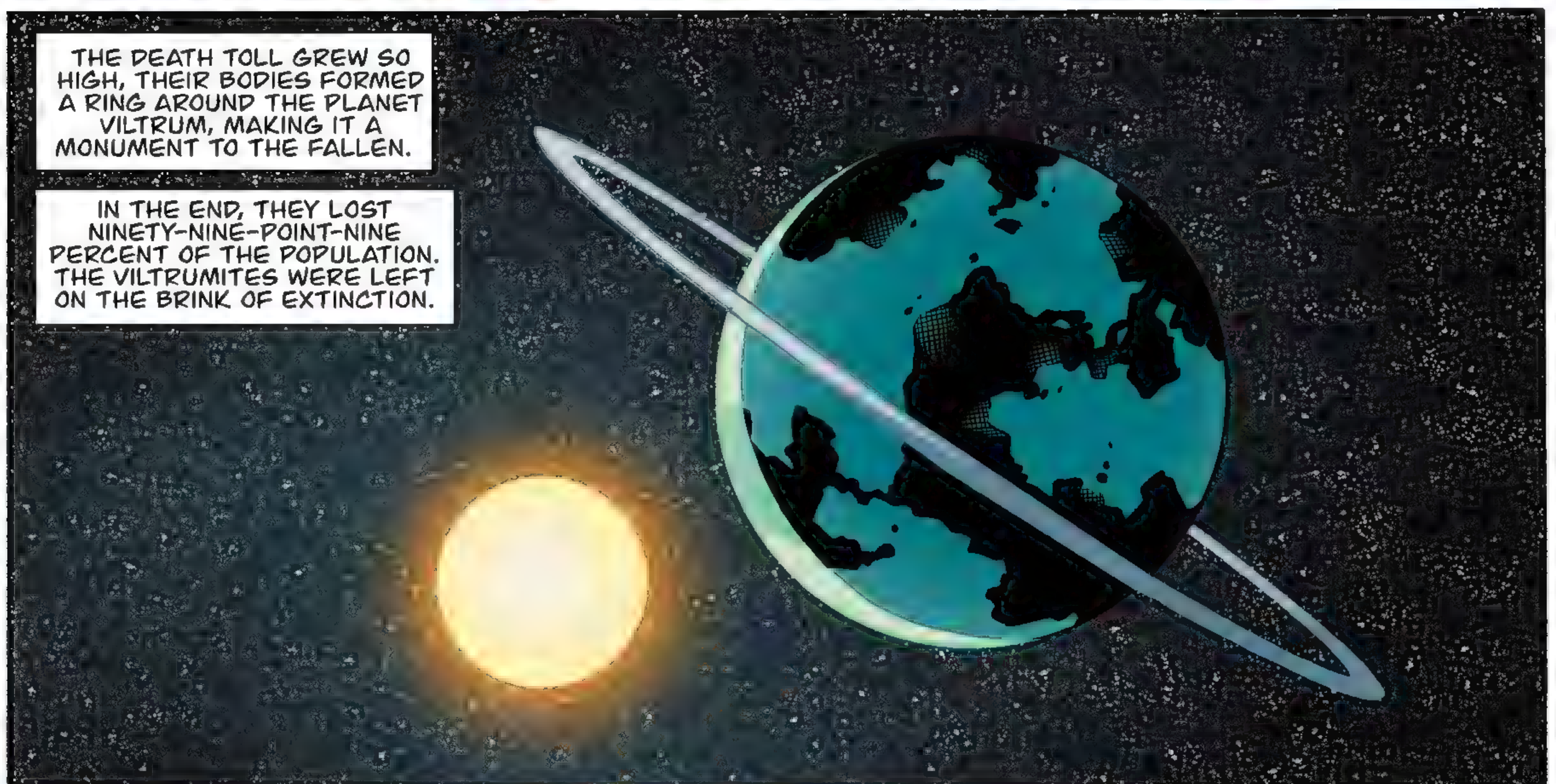
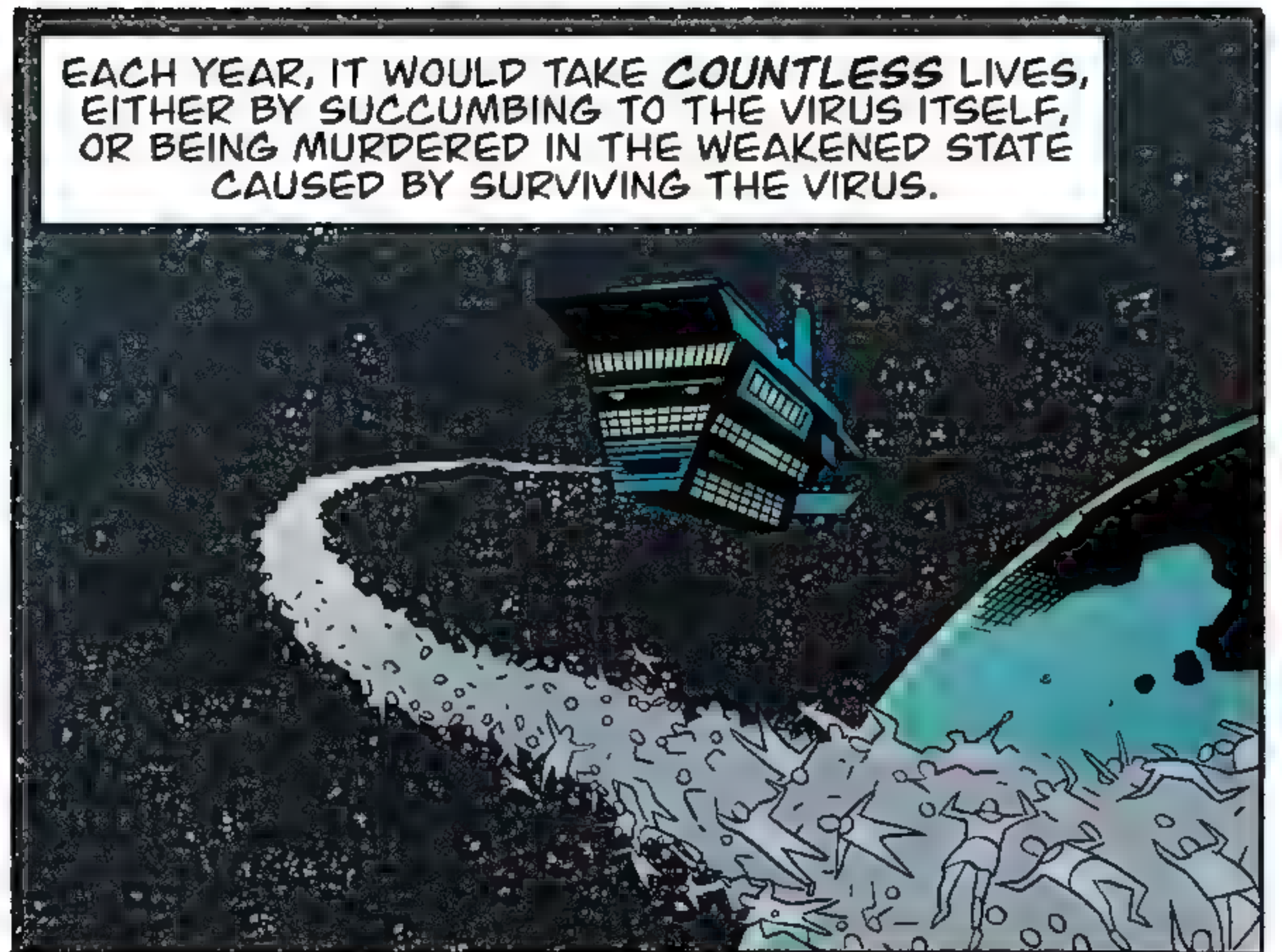
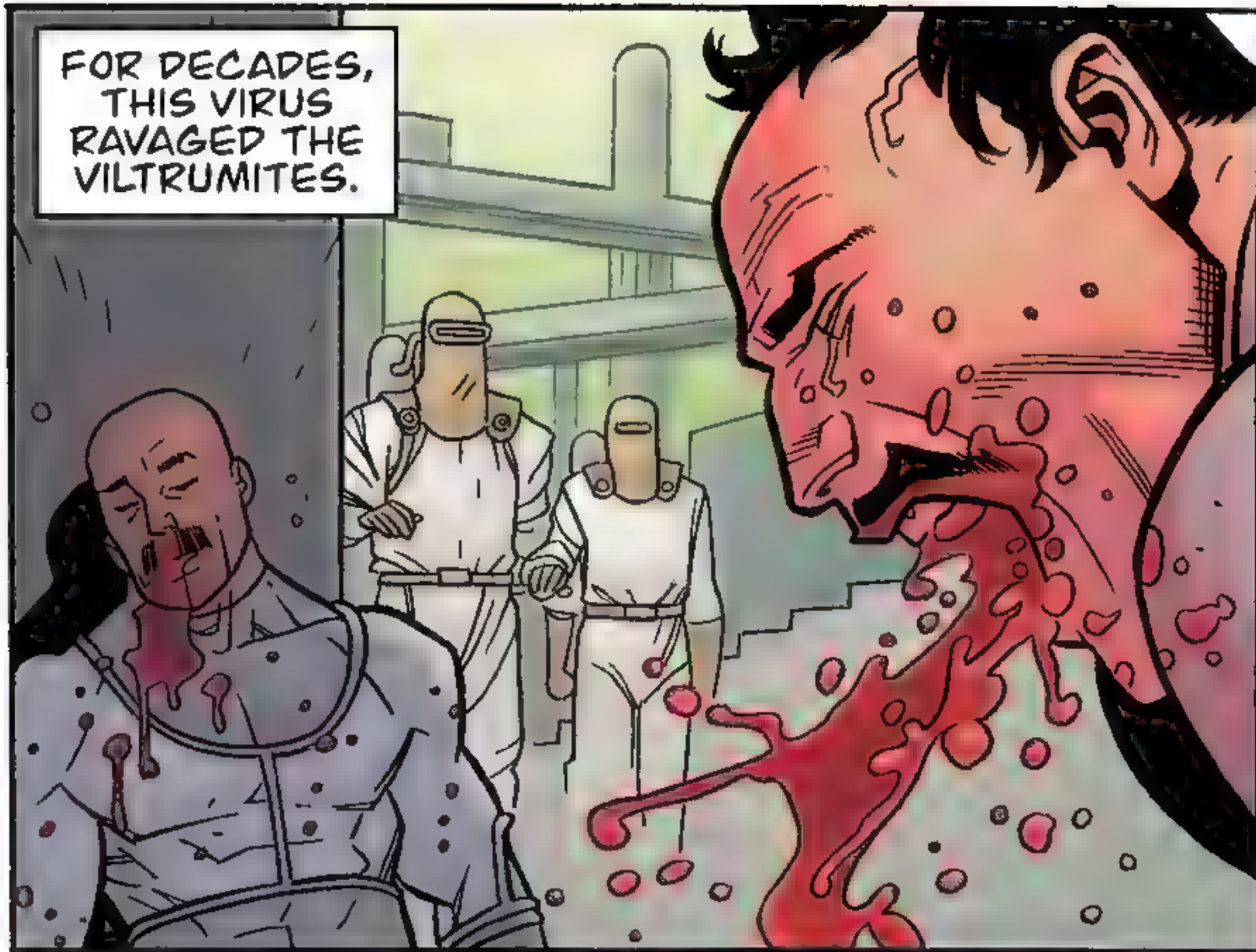


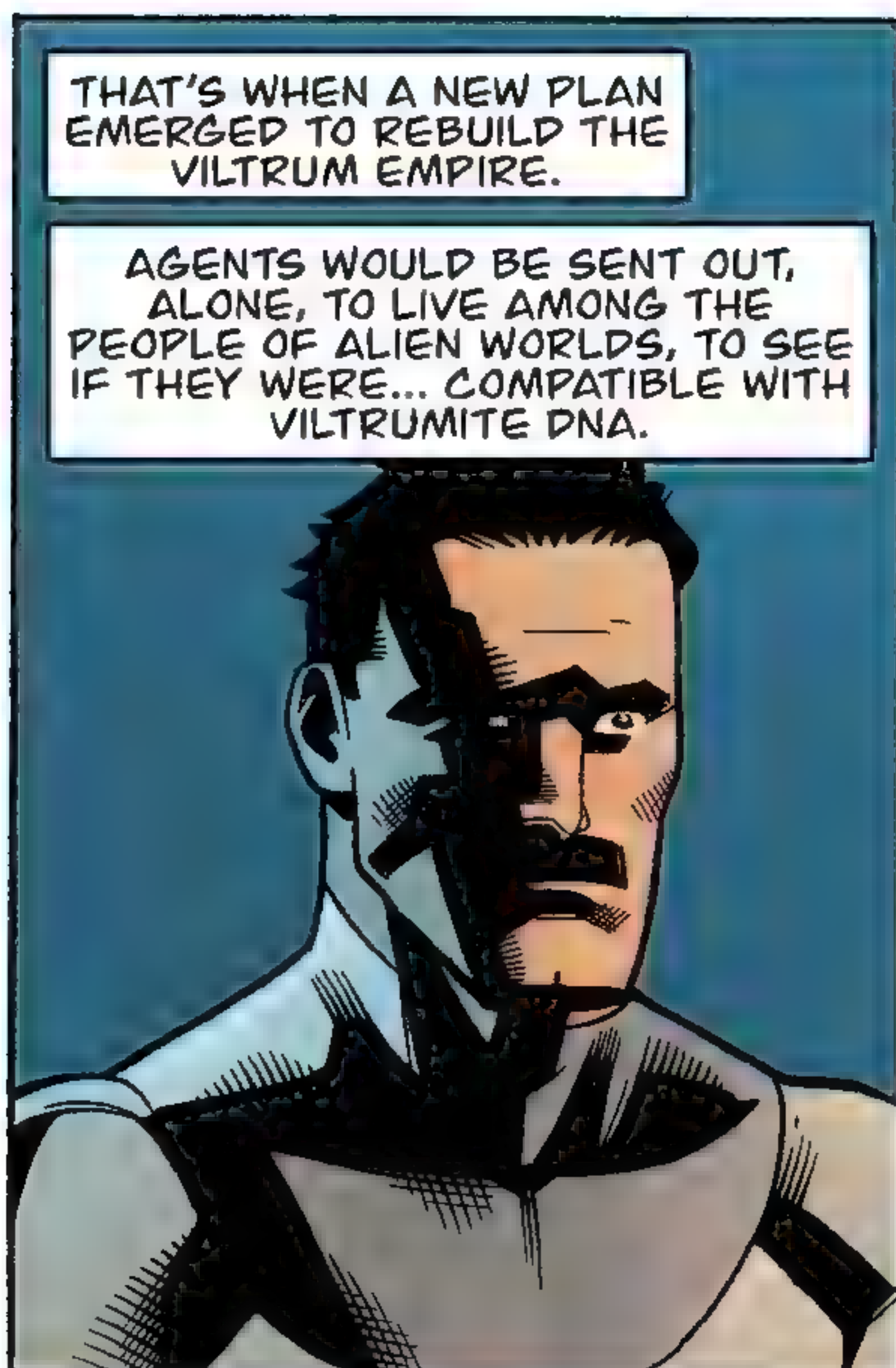
AN EMPIRE THAT CONTINUED TO EXPAND AT AN ASTOUNDING RATE FOR NEARLY **ONE THOUSAND YEARS**.



UNTIL THEIR ENEMIES MADE A WEAPON CAPABLE OF HURTING THEM.

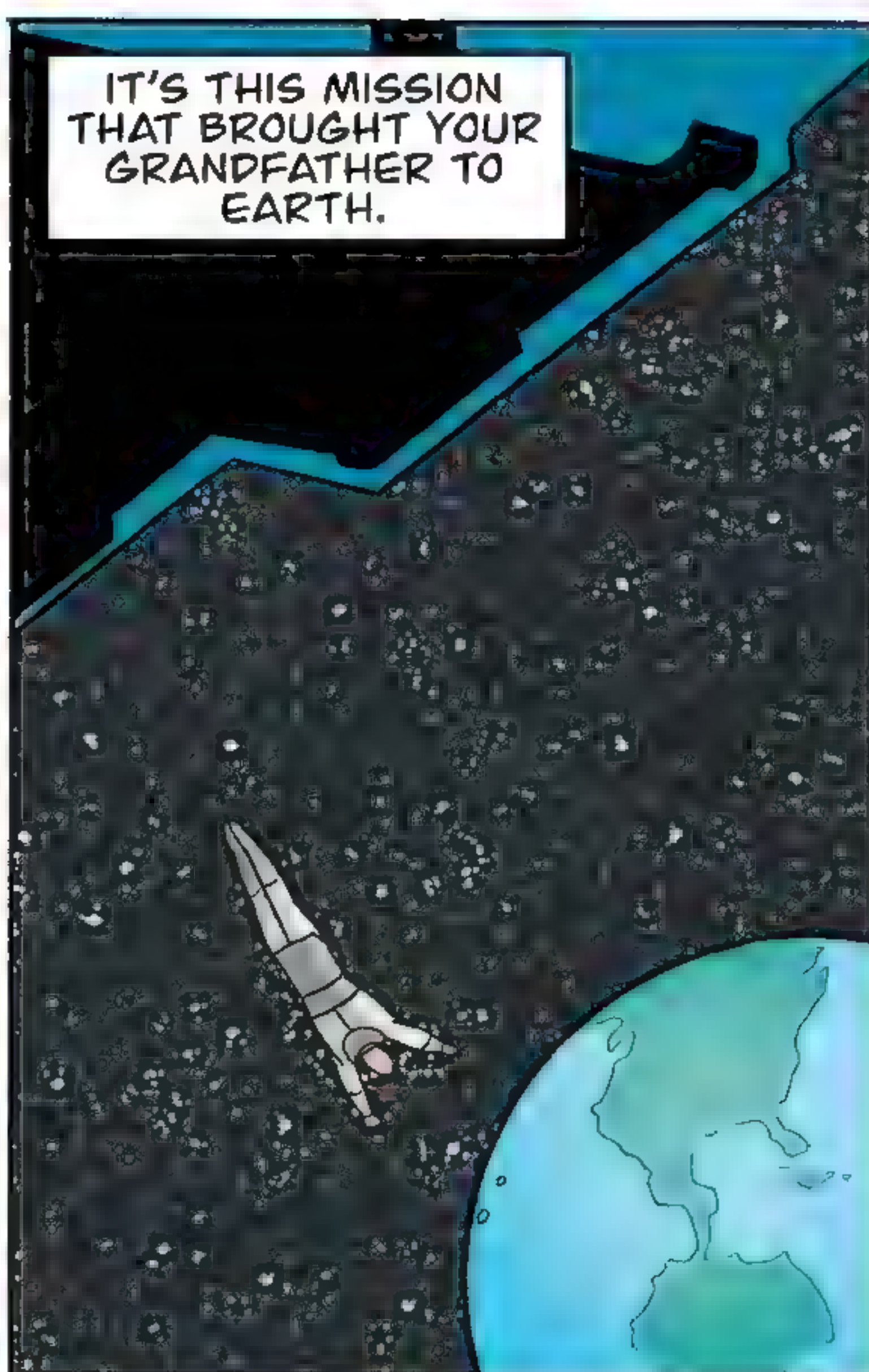
THEY MADE THE **SCOURGE VIRUS**.





THAT'S WHEN A NEW PLAN
EMERGED TO REBUILD THE
VILTRUM EMPIRE.

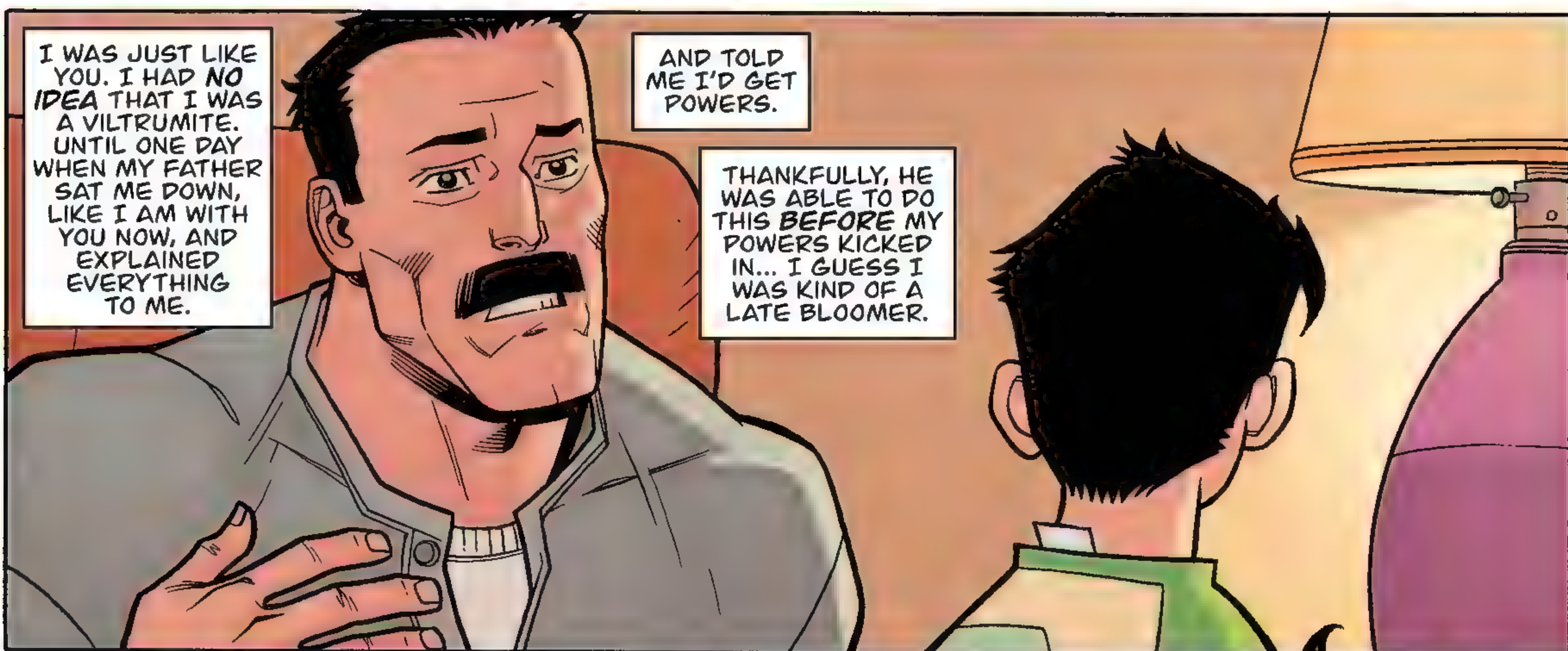
AGENTS WOULD BE SENT OUT,
ALONE, TO LIVE AMONG THE
PEOPLE OF ALIEN WORLDS, TO SEE
IF THEY WERE... COMPATIBLE WITH
VILTRUMITE DNA.



IT'S THIS MISSION
THAT BROUGHT YOUR
GRANDFATHER TO
EARTH.



AND LED TO ME
BEING BORN.



I WAS JUST LIKE
YOU. I HAD NO
IDEA THAT I WAS
A VILTRUMITE.
UNTIL ONE DAY
WHEN MY FATHER
SAT ME DOWN,
LIKE I AM WITH
YOU NOW, AND
EXPLAINED
EVERYTHING
TO ME.

AND TOLD
ME I'D GET
POWERS.

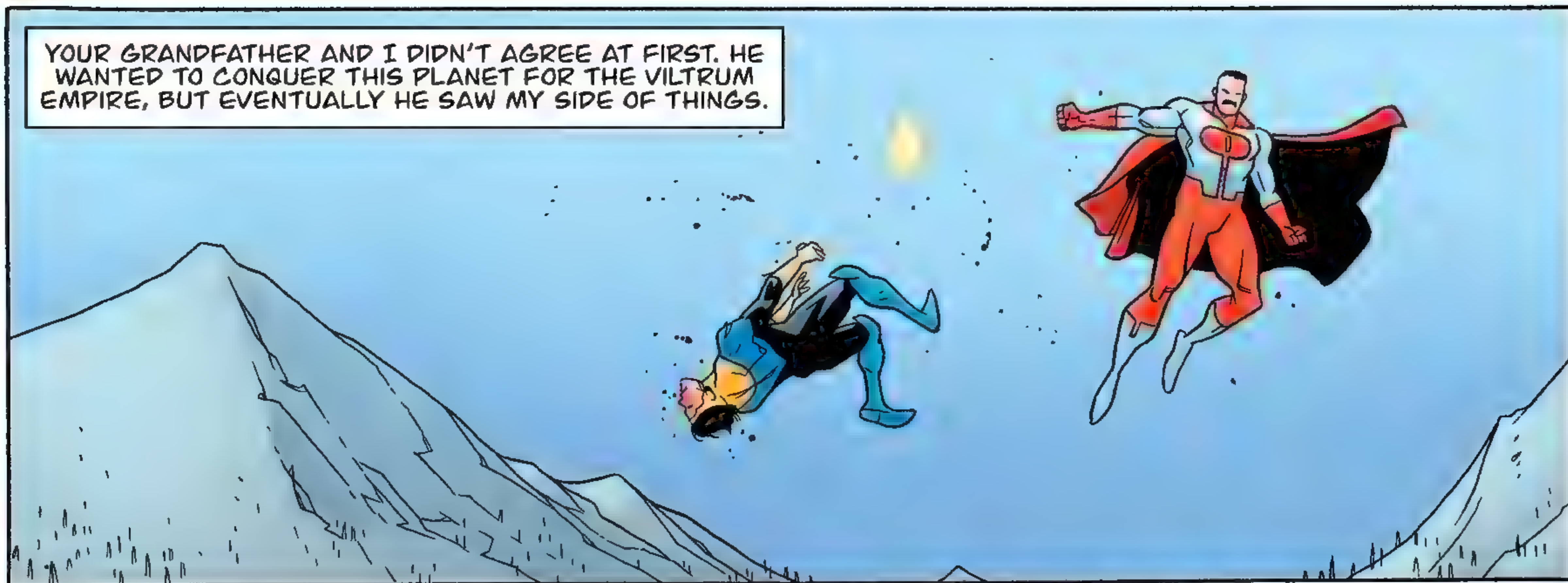
THANKFULLY, HE
WAS ABLE TO DO
THIS BEFORE MY
POWERS KICKED
IN... I GUESS I
WAS KIND OF A
LATE BLOOMER.



ONCE I GOT MY
POWERS, I HAD MANY
ADVENTURES AND DID
LOTS OF GOOD AS
INVINCIBLE.

YOU CAN PROBABLY
READ ALL KINDS OF
THINGS ABOUT ME
ON THE INTERNET.

YOUR GRANDFATHER AND I DIDN'T AGREE AT FIRST. HE WANTED TO CONQUER THIS PLANET FOR THE VILTRUM EMPIRE, BUT EVENTUALLY HE SAW MY SIDE OF THINGS.

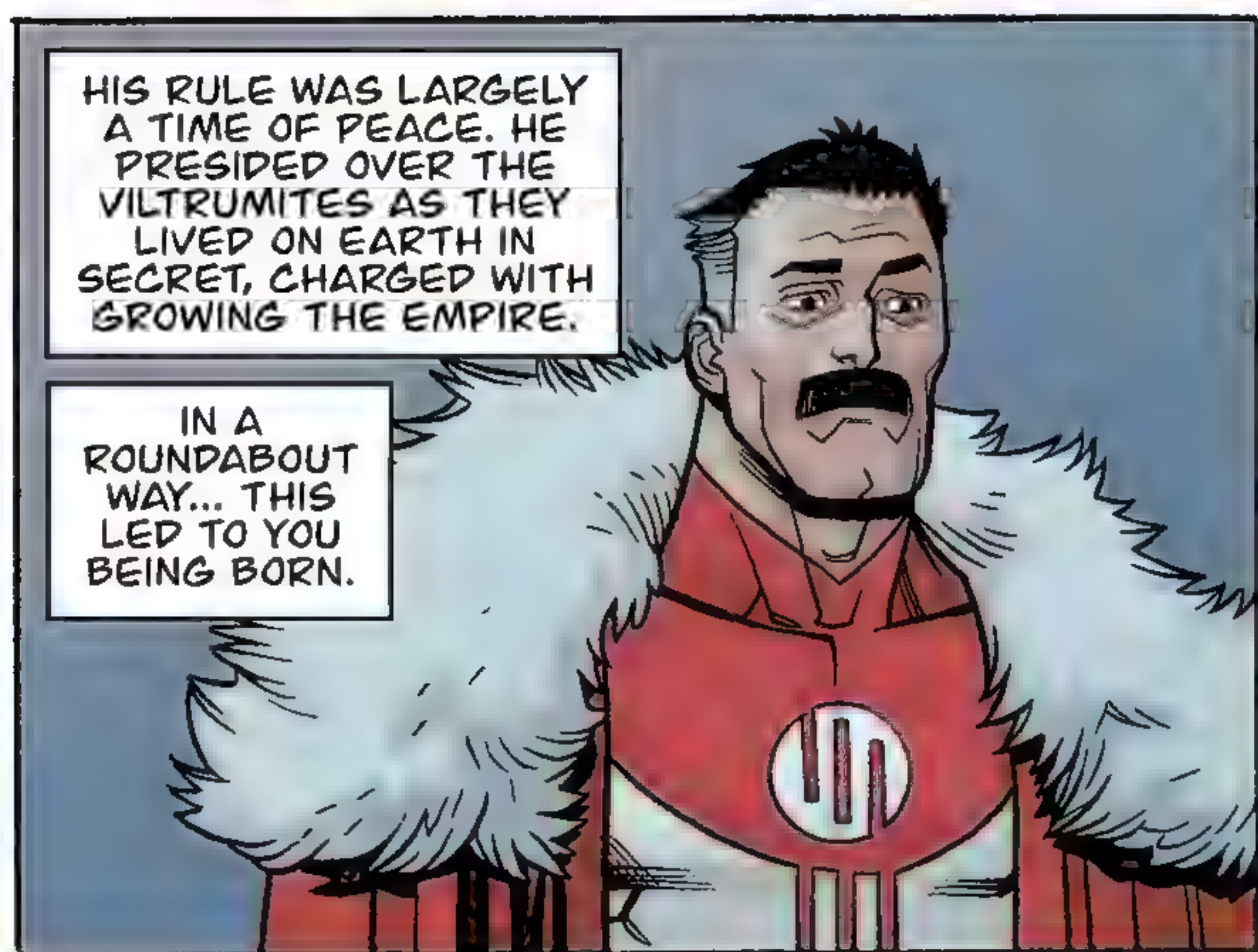


TOGETHER, WITH THE HELP OF OTHERS, WE DEFEATED THRAGG AND DISCOVERED YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR OF ARGALL, AND THE TRUE LEADER OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.



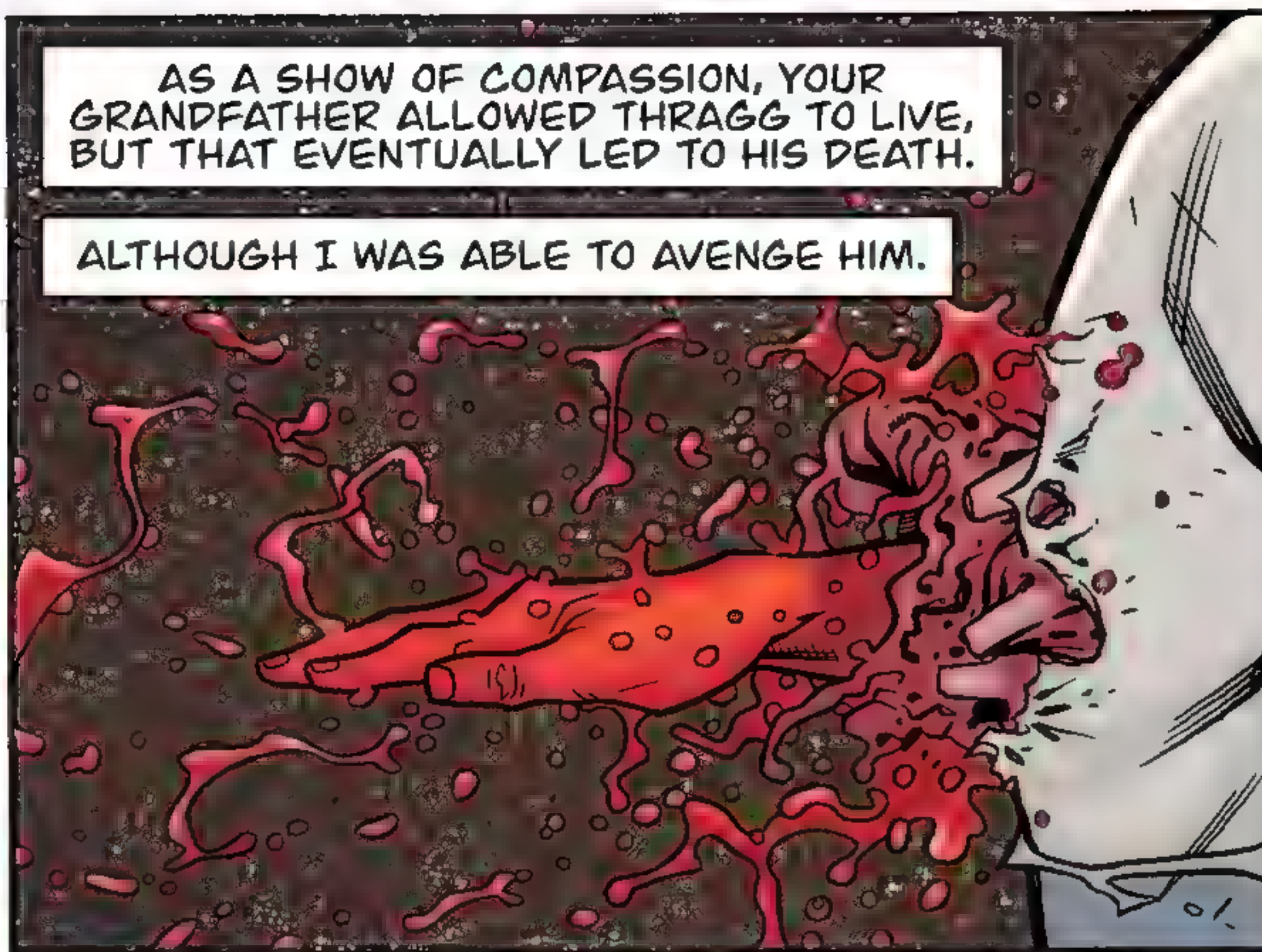
HIS RULE WAS LARGELY A TIME OF PEACE. HE PRESIDED OVER THE VILTRUMITES AS THEY LIVED ON EARTH IN SECRET, CHARGED WITH GROWING THE EMPIRE.

IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY... THIS LED TO YOU BEING BORN.



AS A SHOW OF COMPASSION, YOUR GRANDFATHER ALLOWED THRAGG TO LIVE, BUT THAT EVENTUALLY LED TO HIS DEATH.

ALTHOUGH I WAS ABLE TO AVENGE HIM.

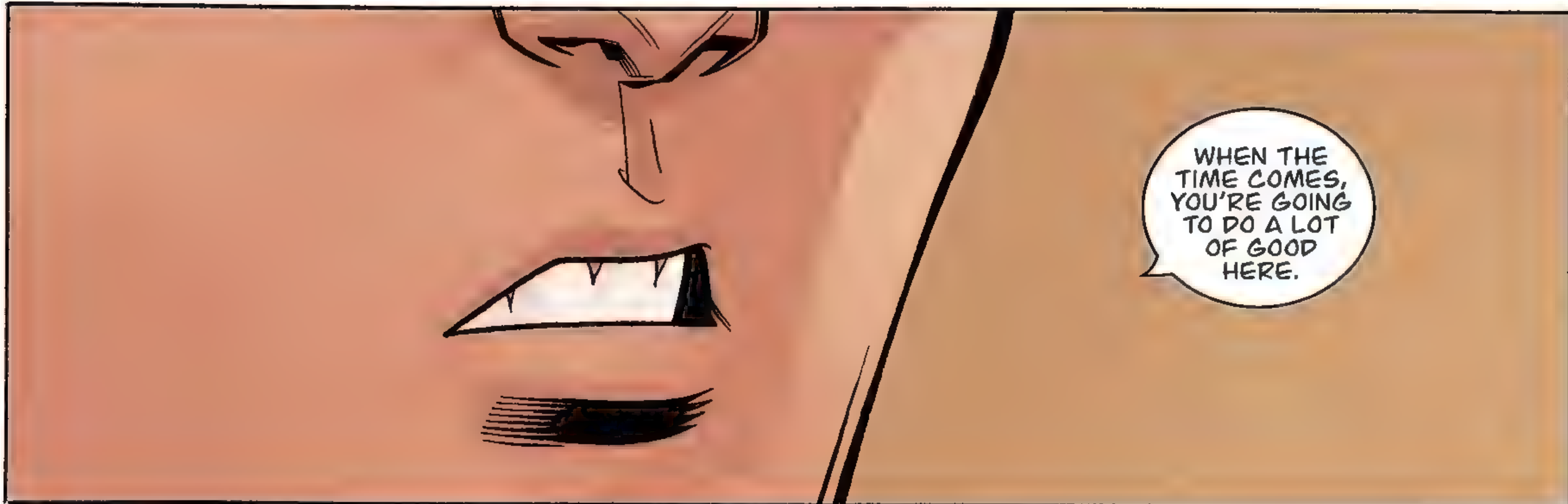
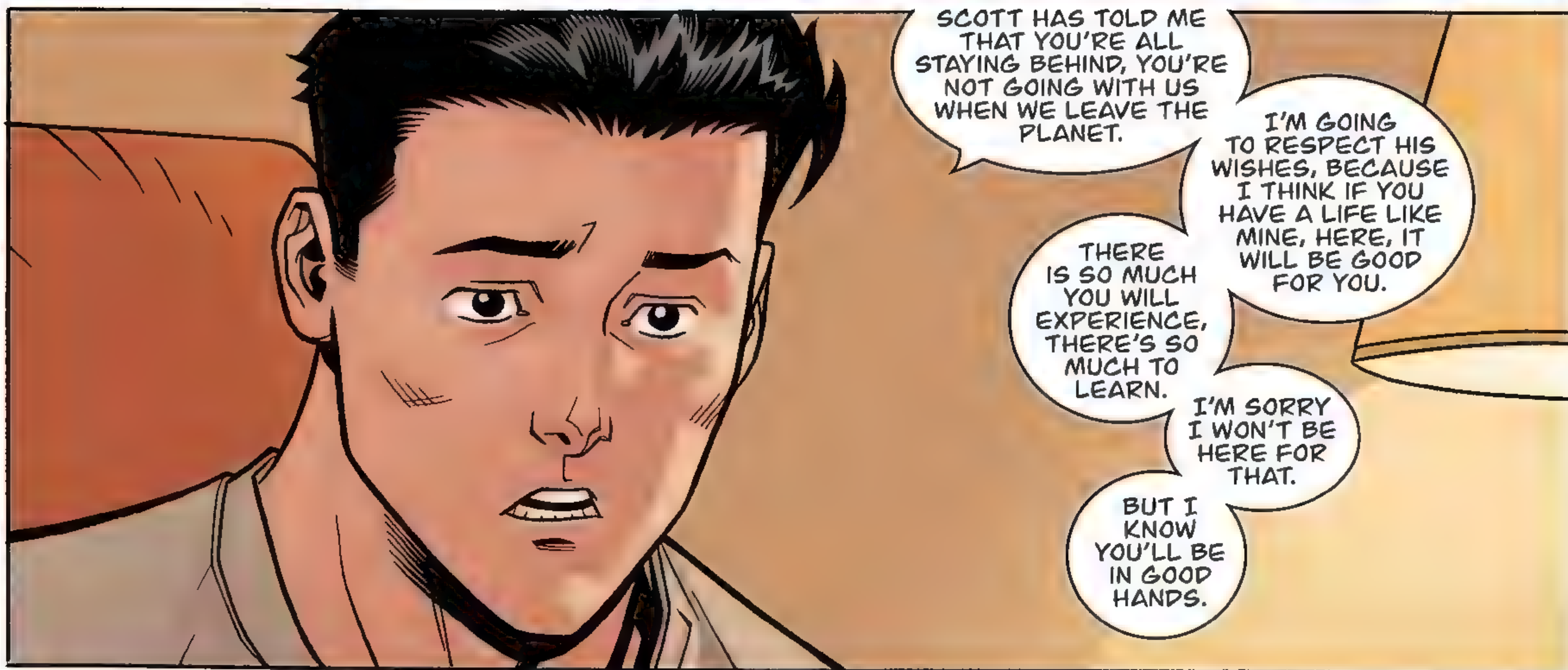
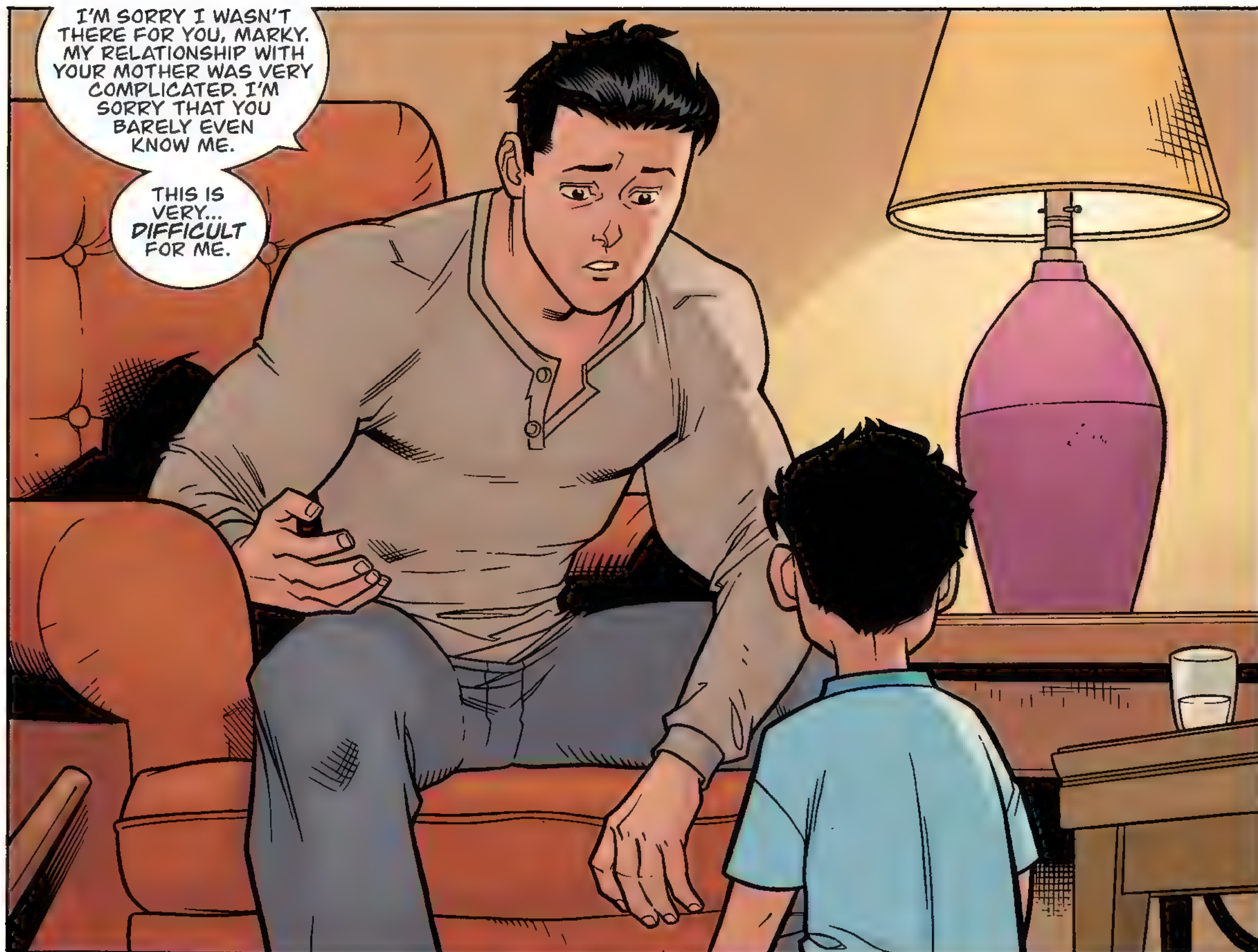


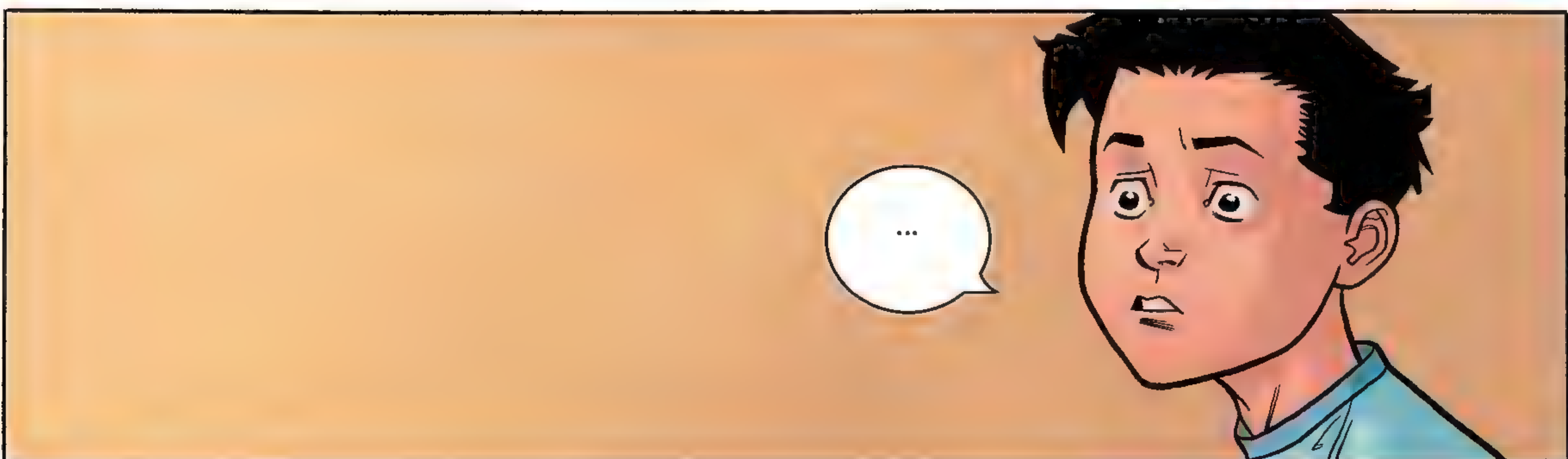
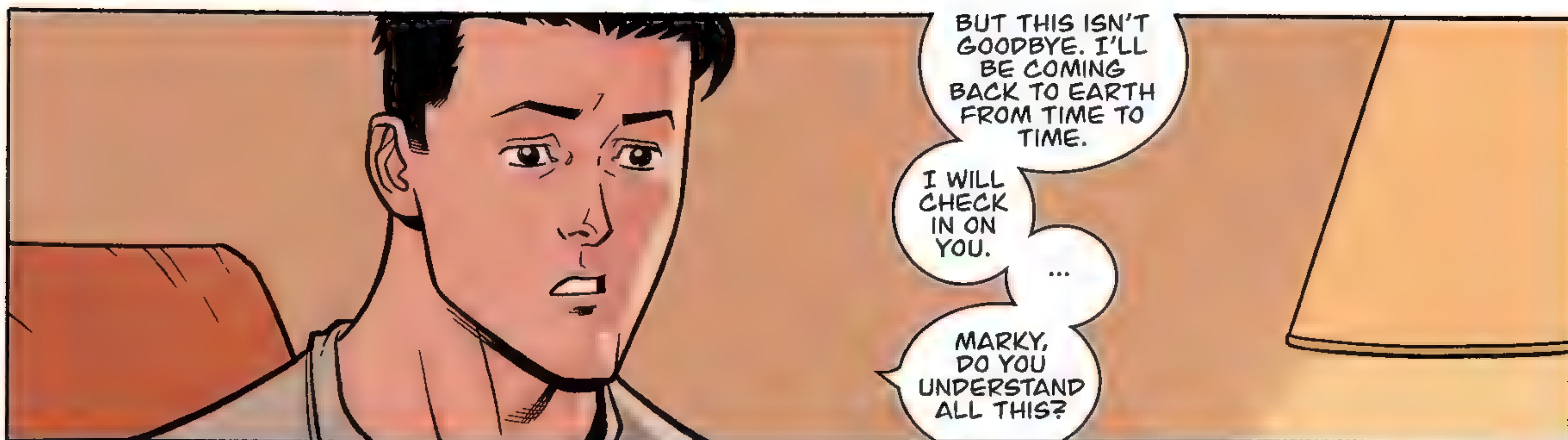
NOW, I'M THE LEADER OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE, AND I HAVE CHOSEN TO LEAD BY MY FATHER'S EXAMPLE. TO SHOW THE POTENTIAL IN US AS A PEOPLE.

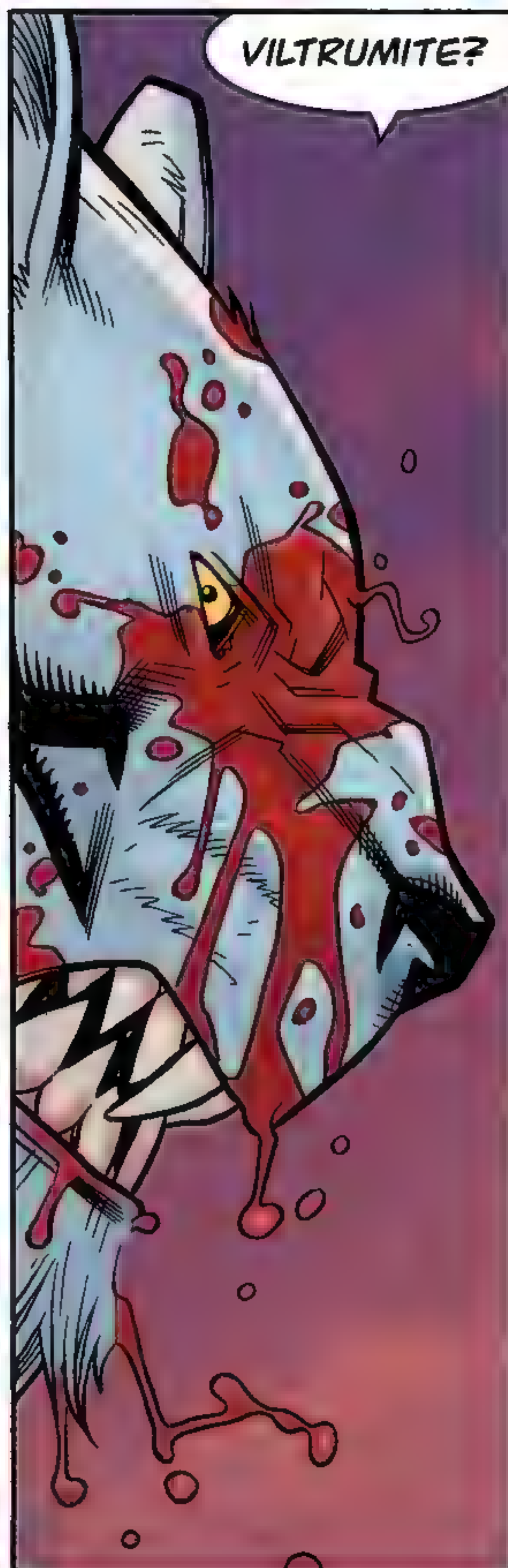
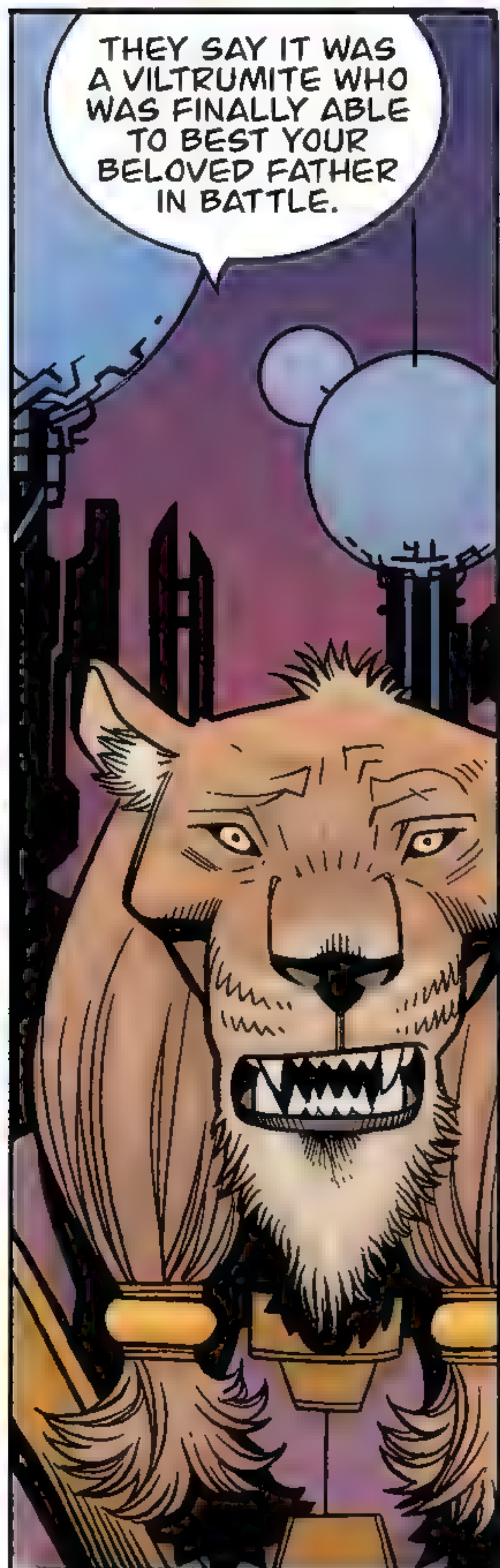
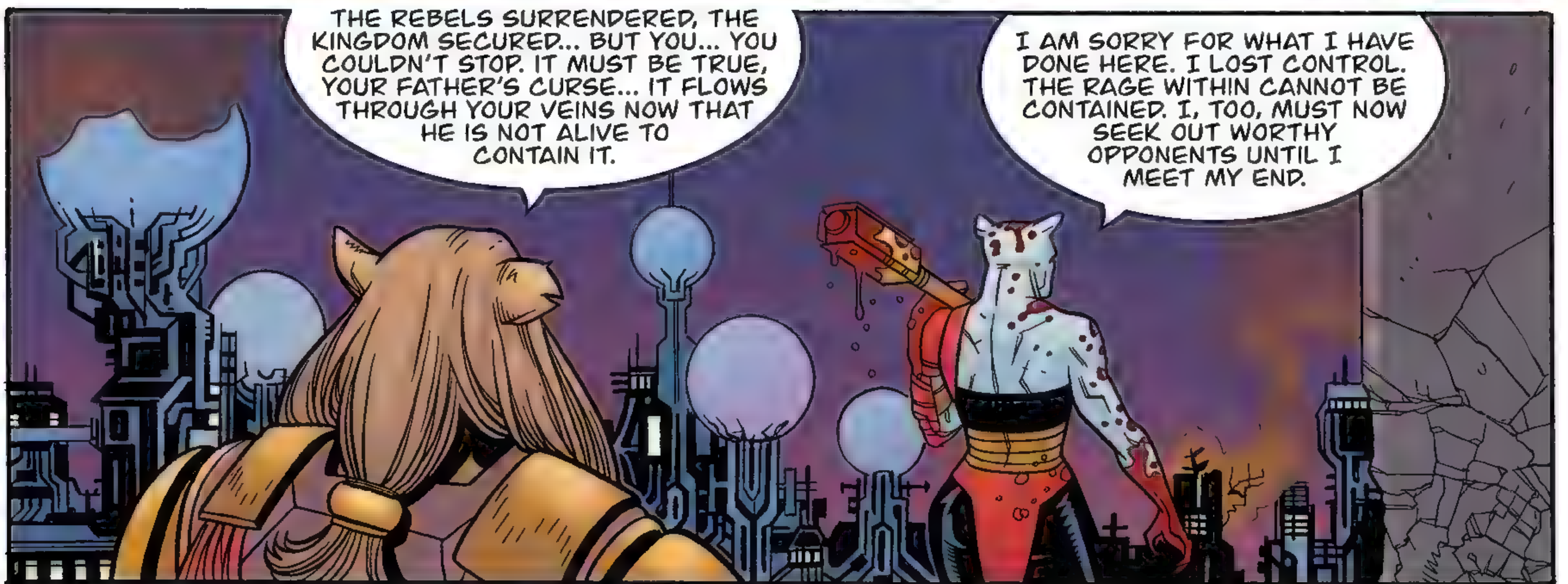
TO PROVE THAT WE CAN BE A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE UNIVERSE--AND NOT SIMPLY THE VIOLENT CONQUERING RACE THAT NEARLY LED TO OUR DEMISE.

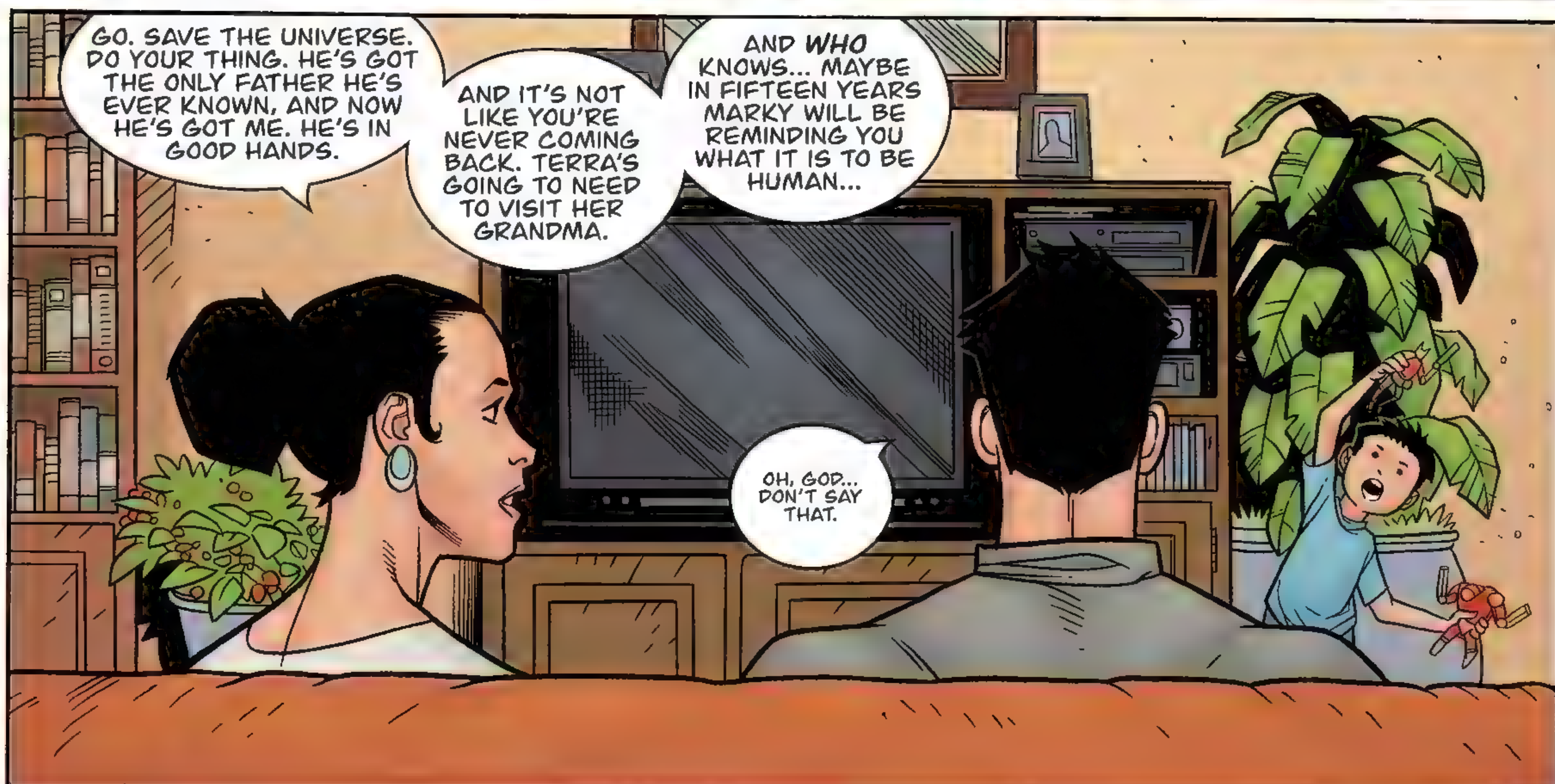
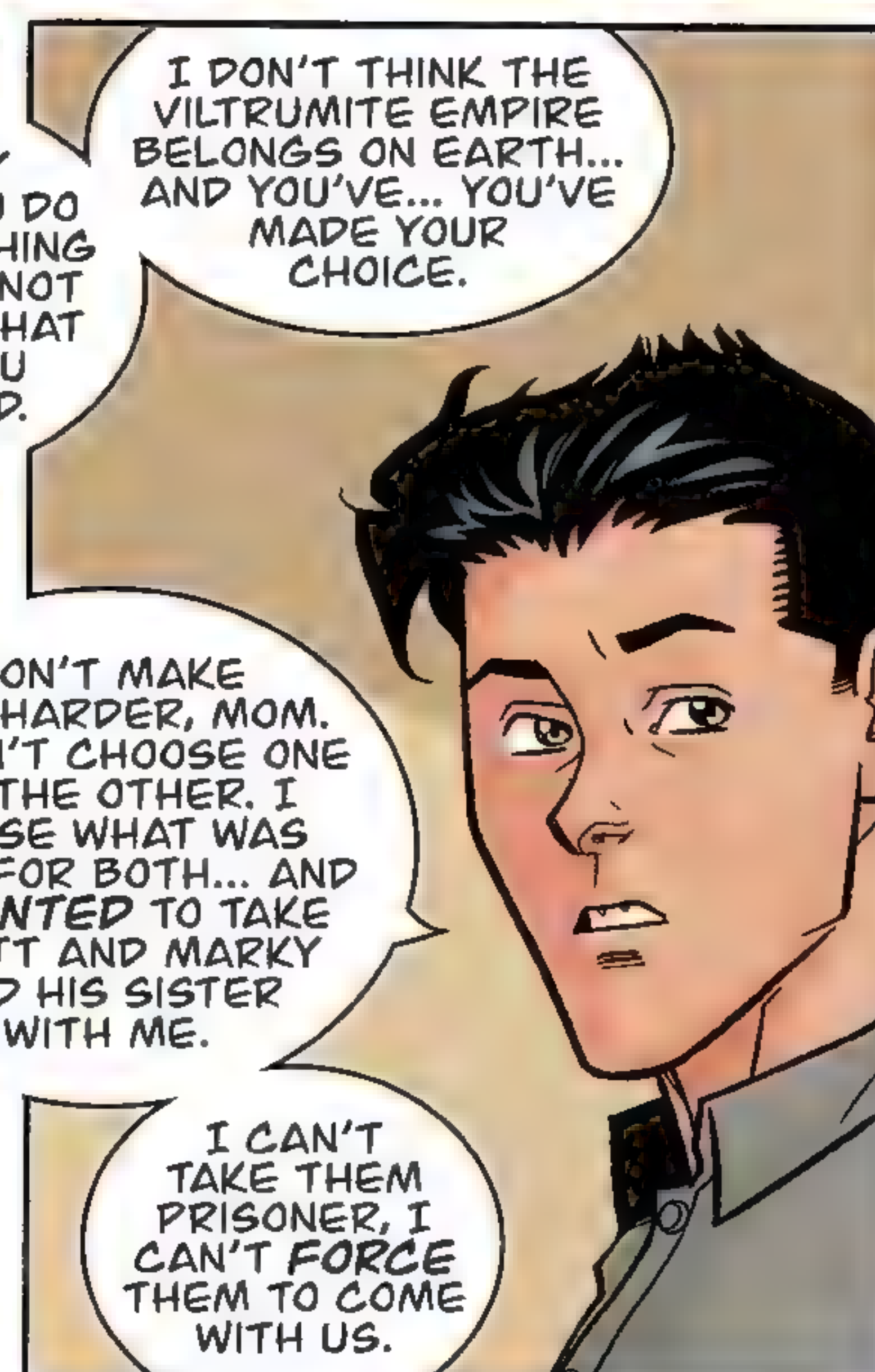
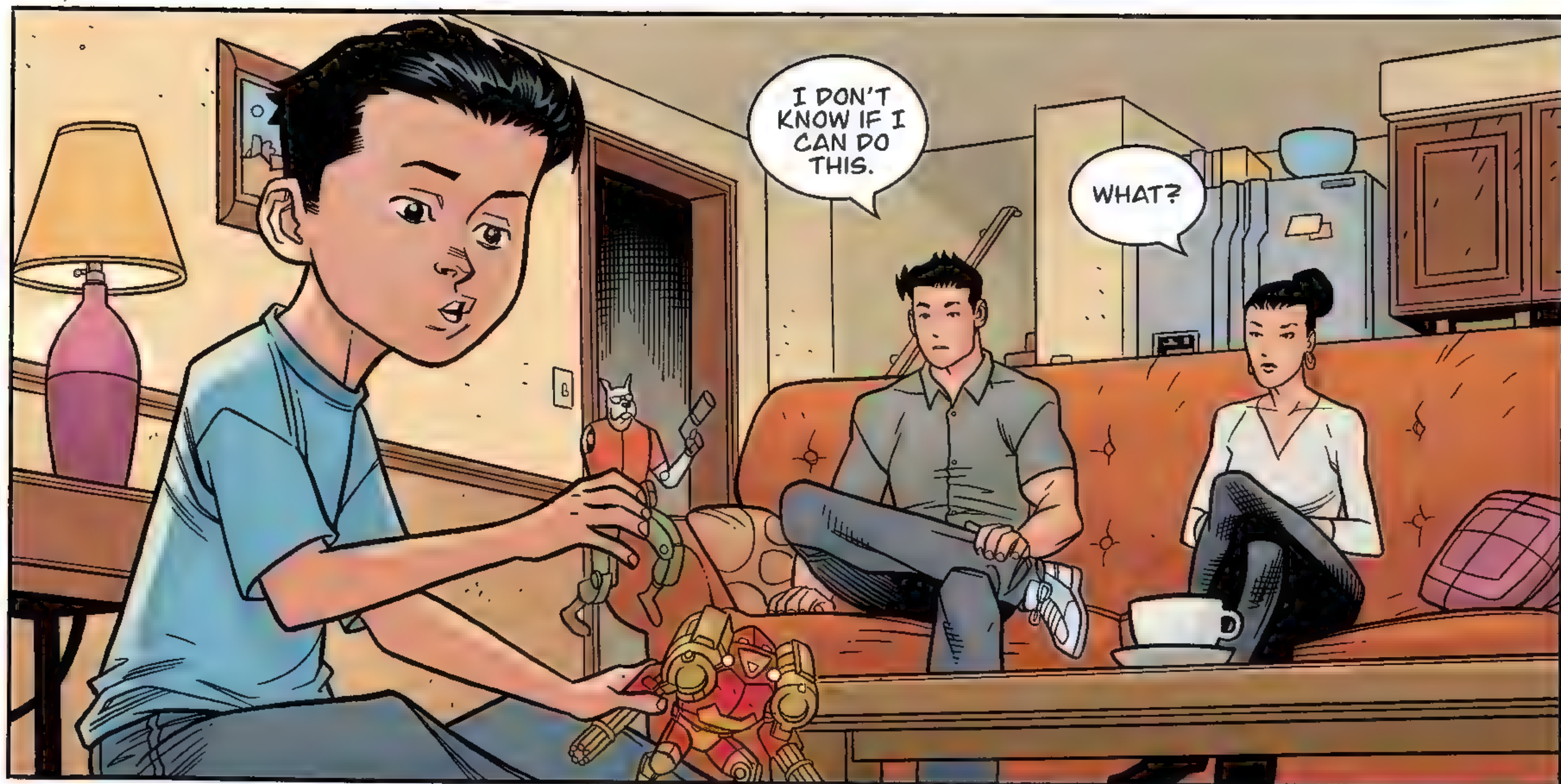


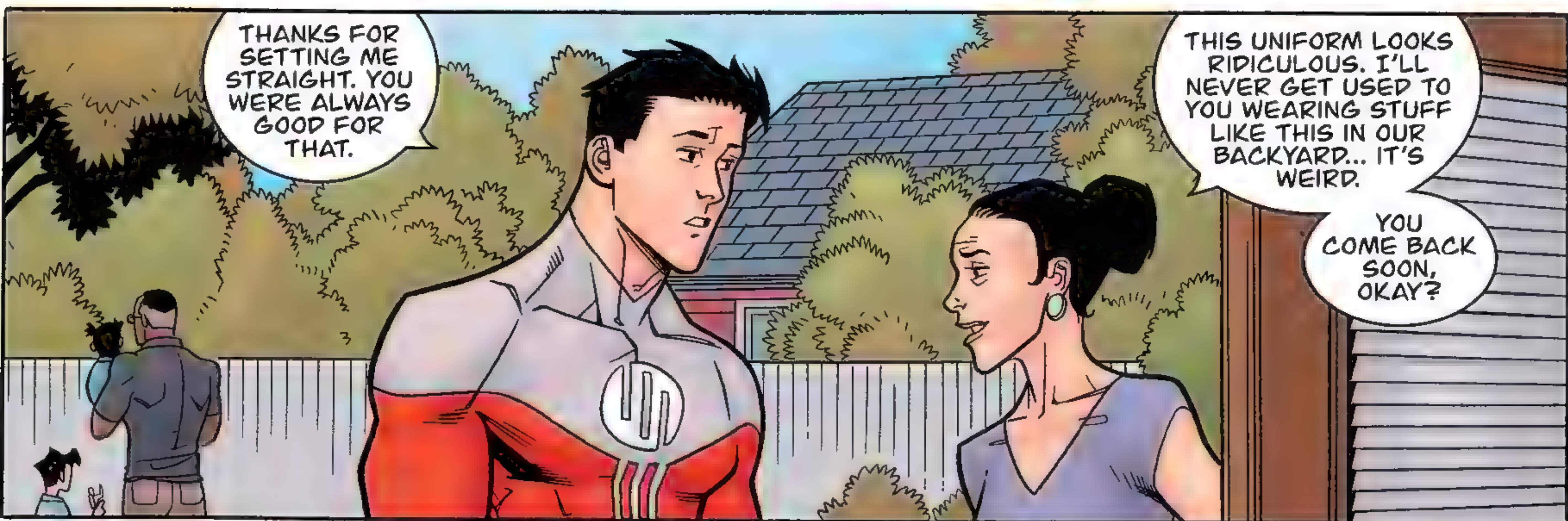
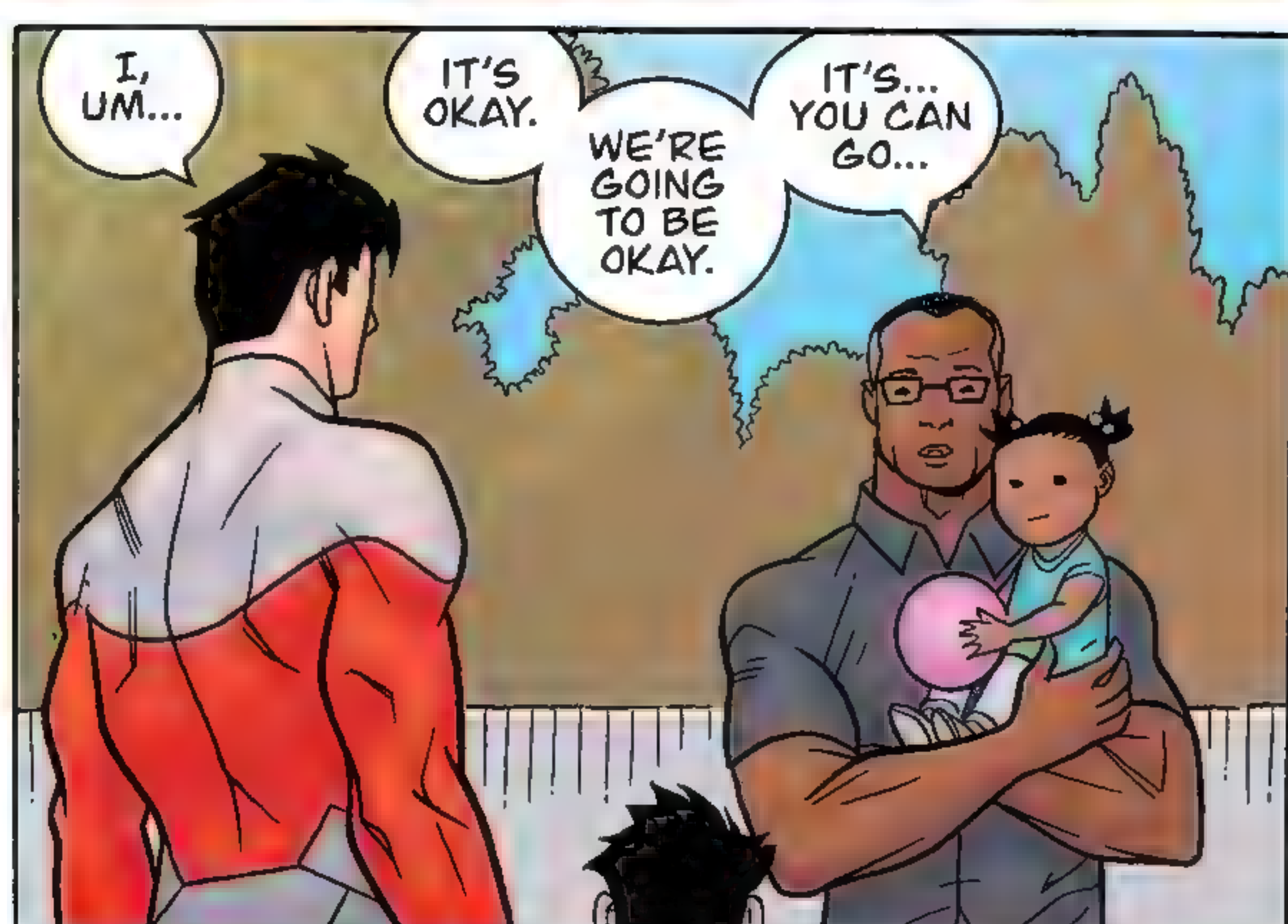
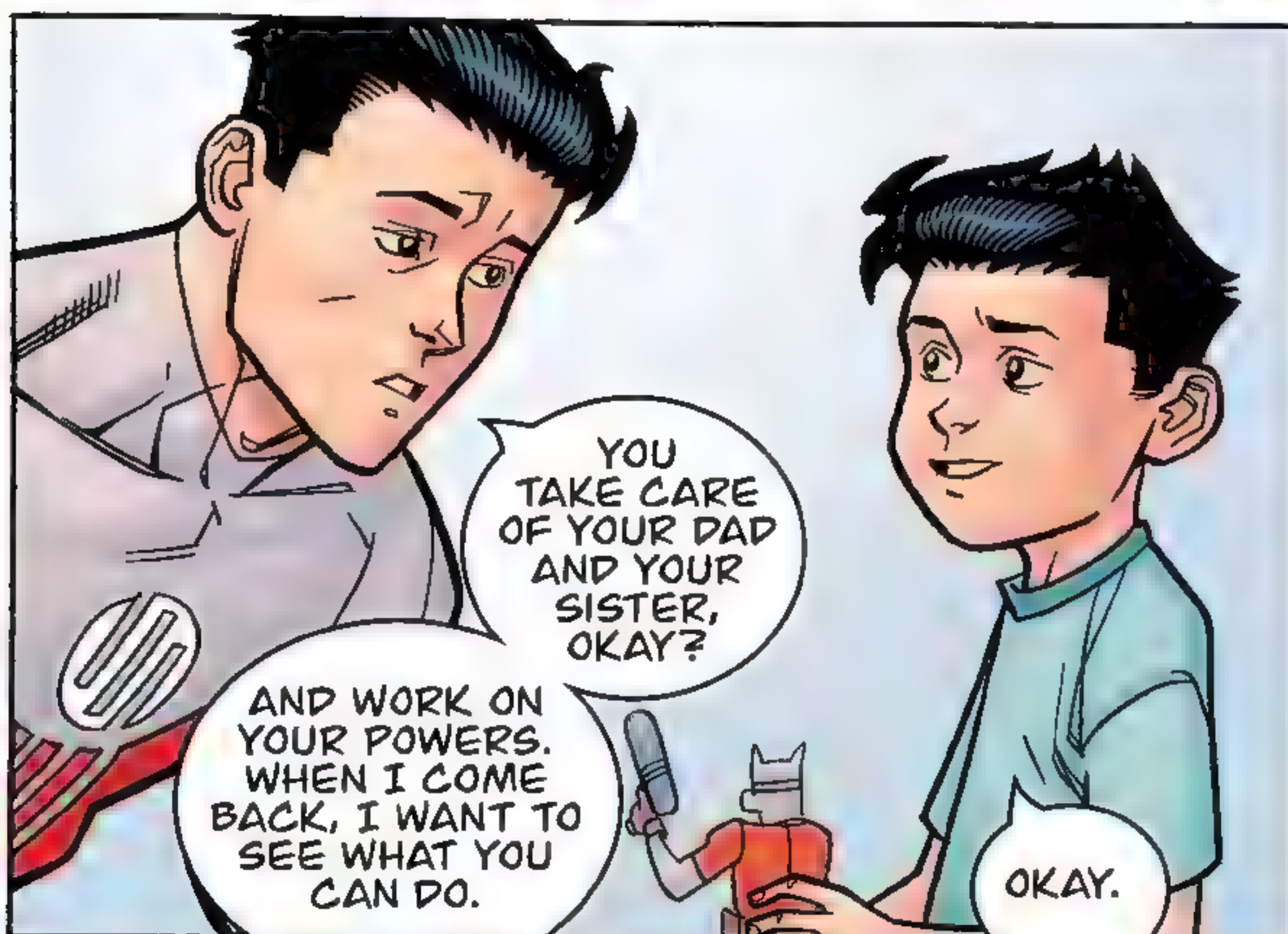
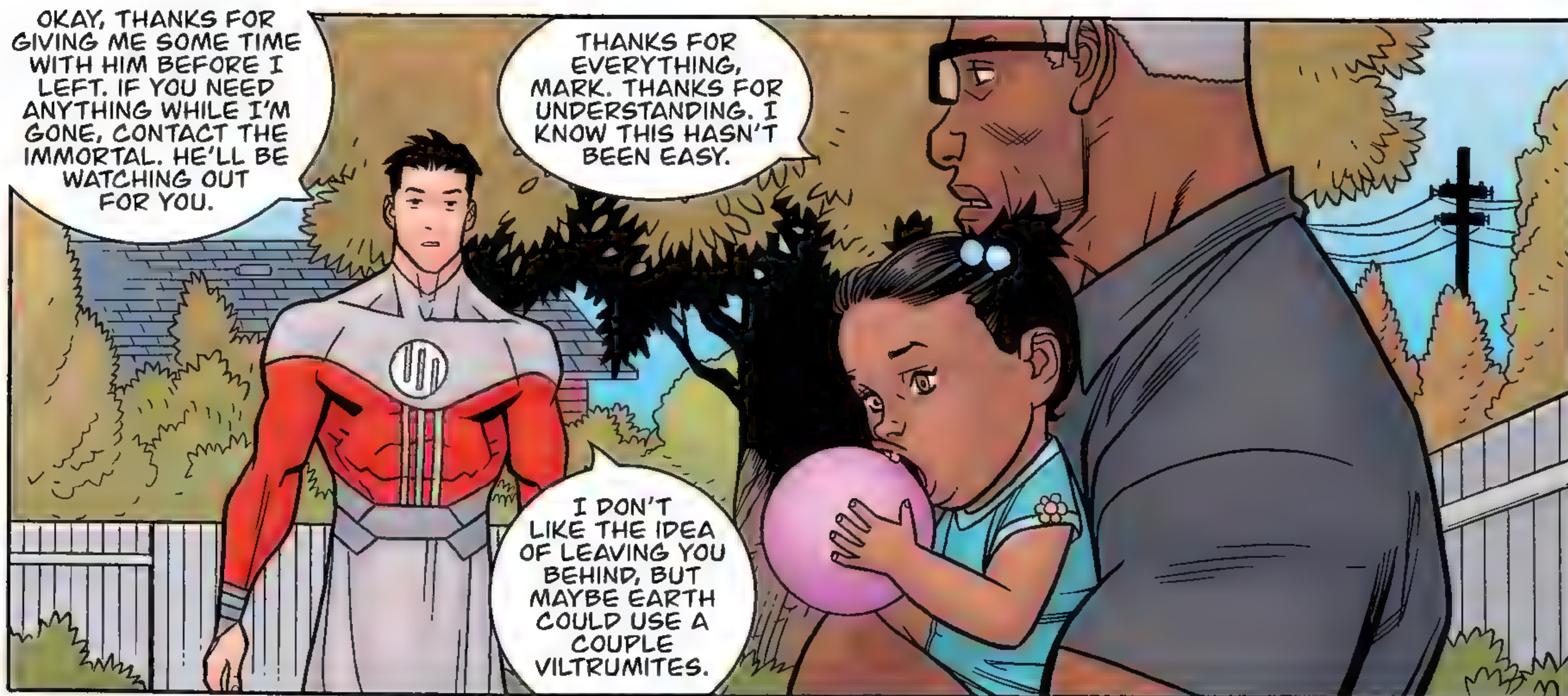
I PLAN ON MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE... FOR EVERY LIVING BEING.

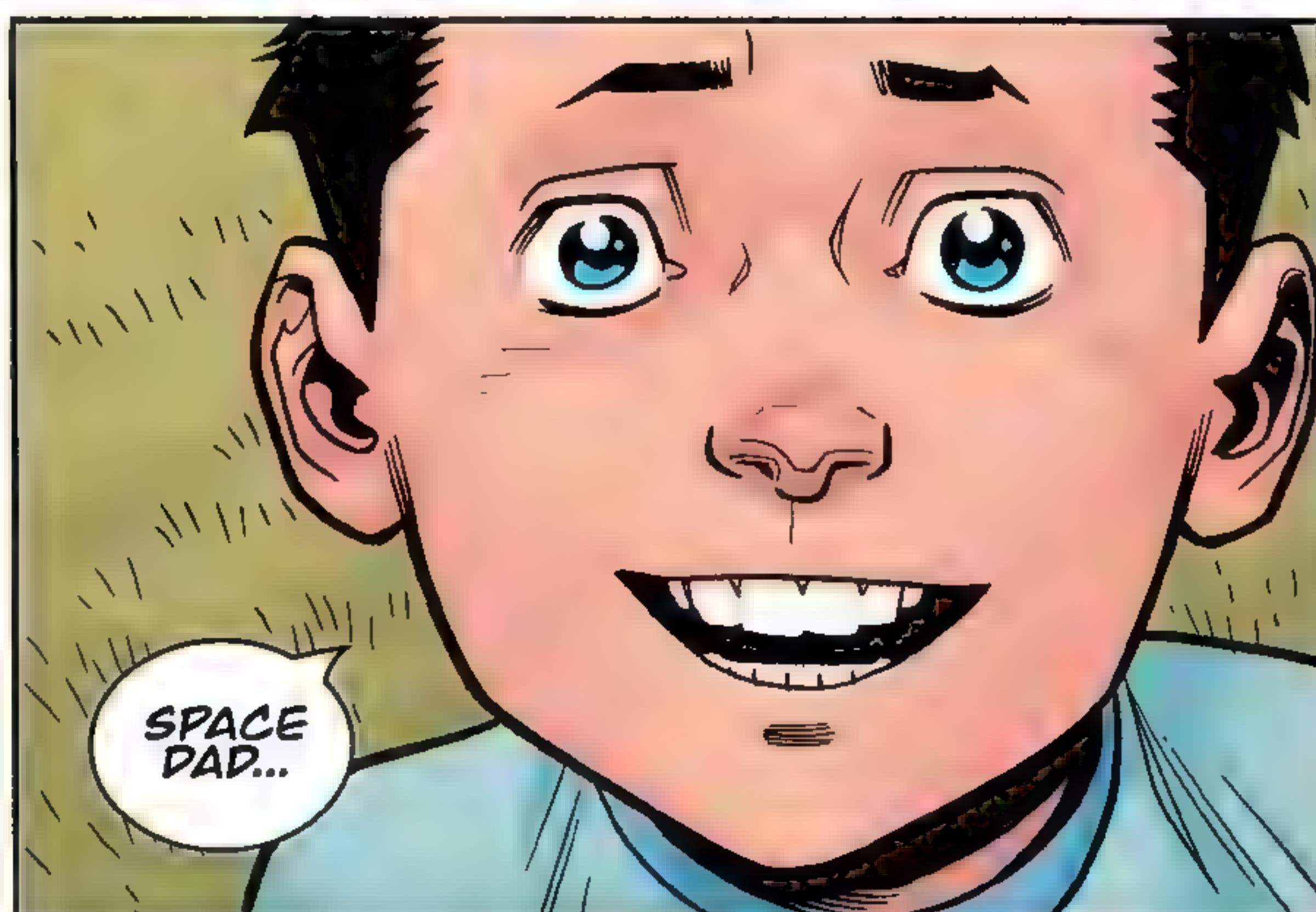
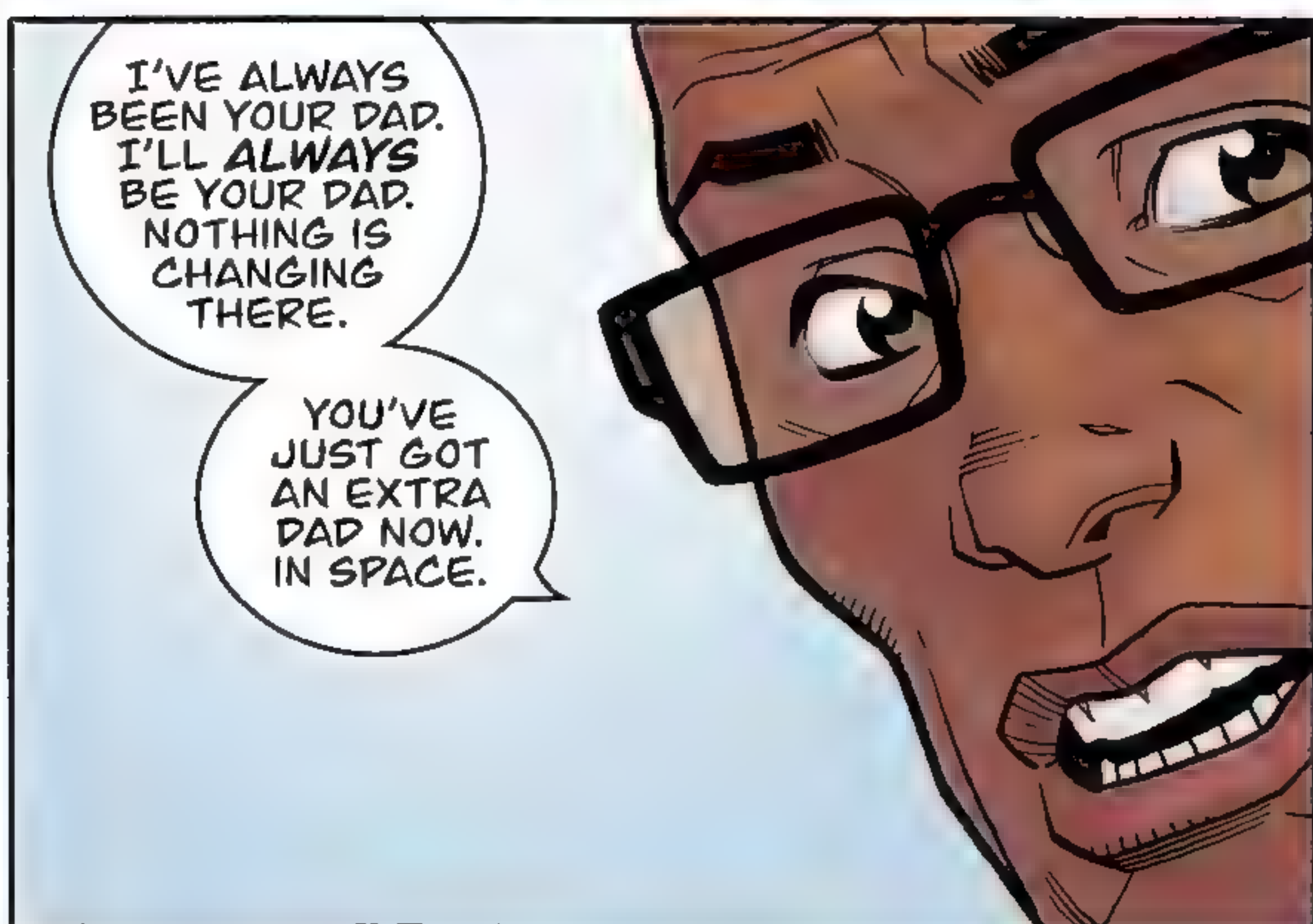
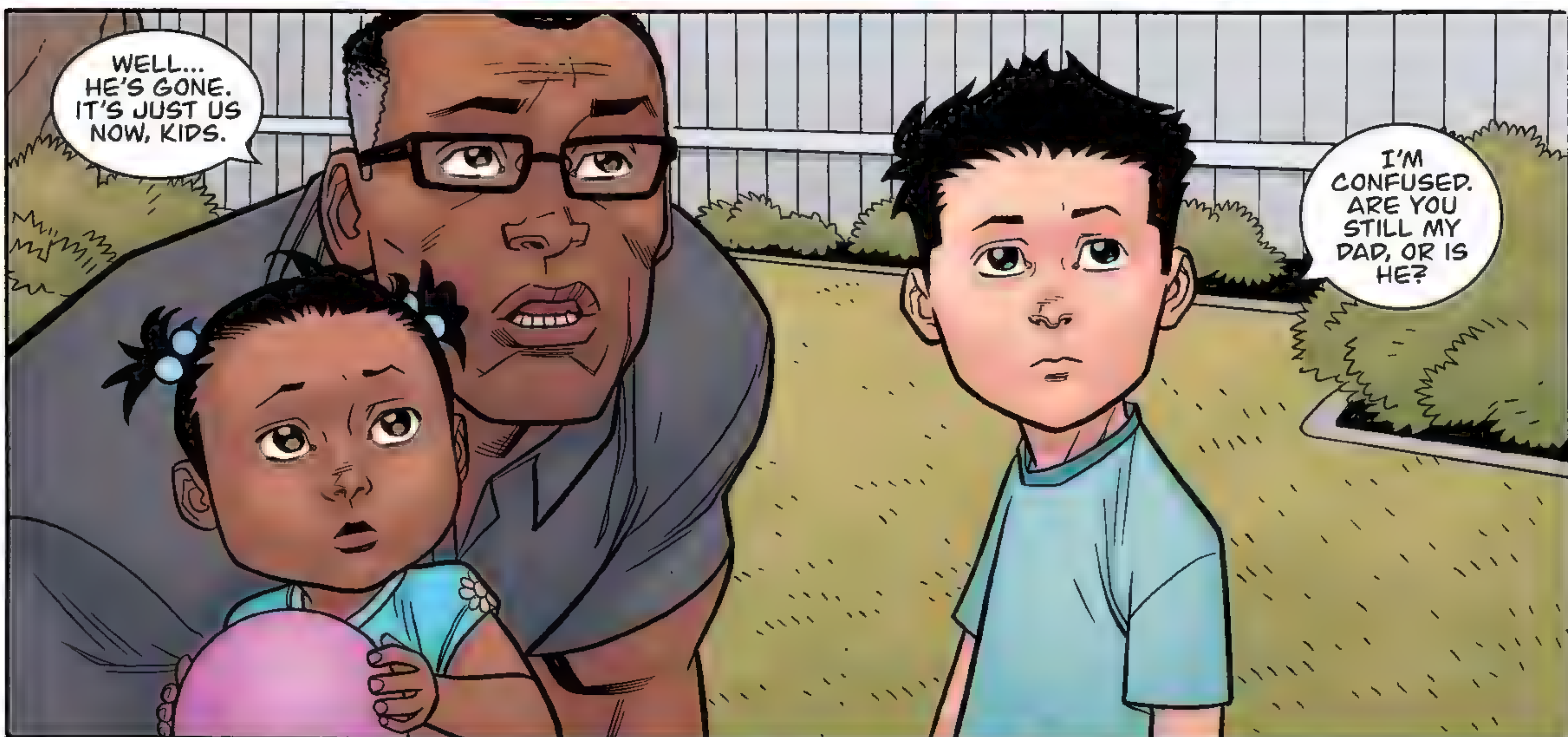


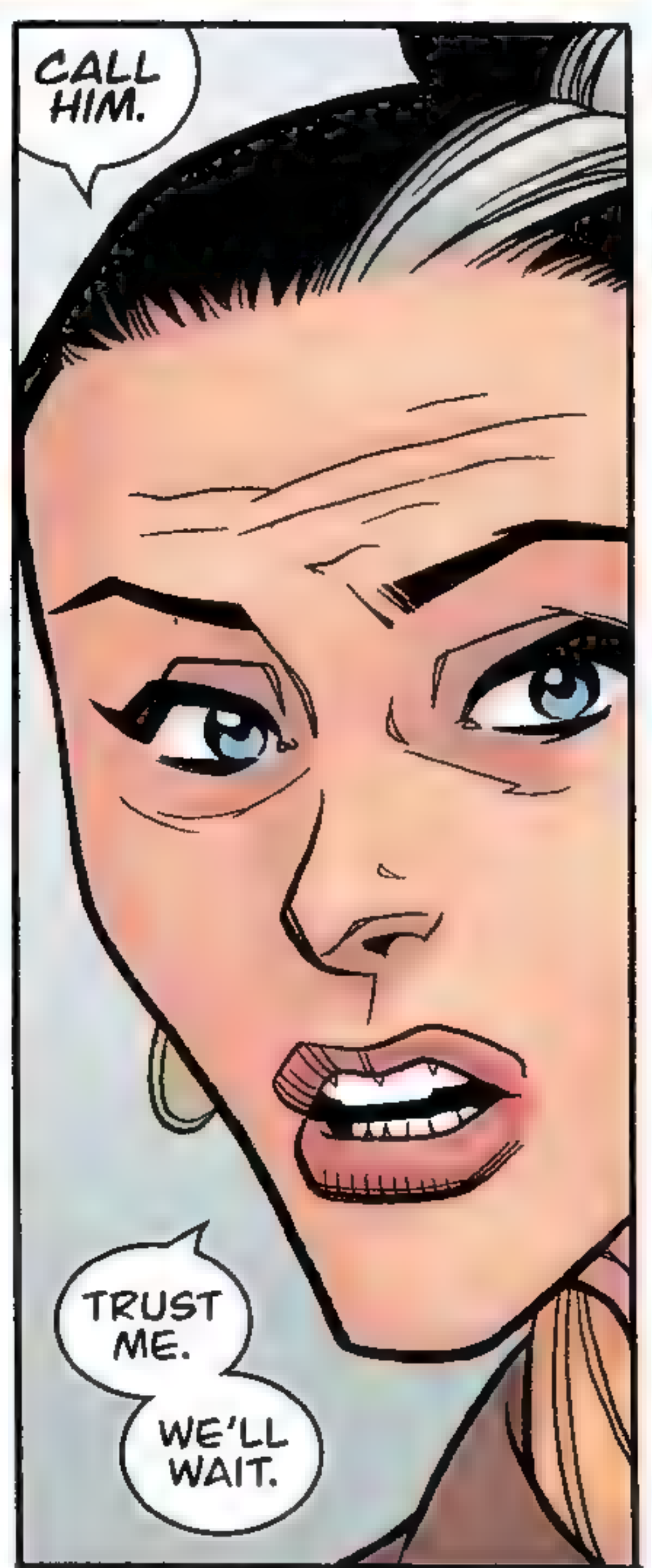
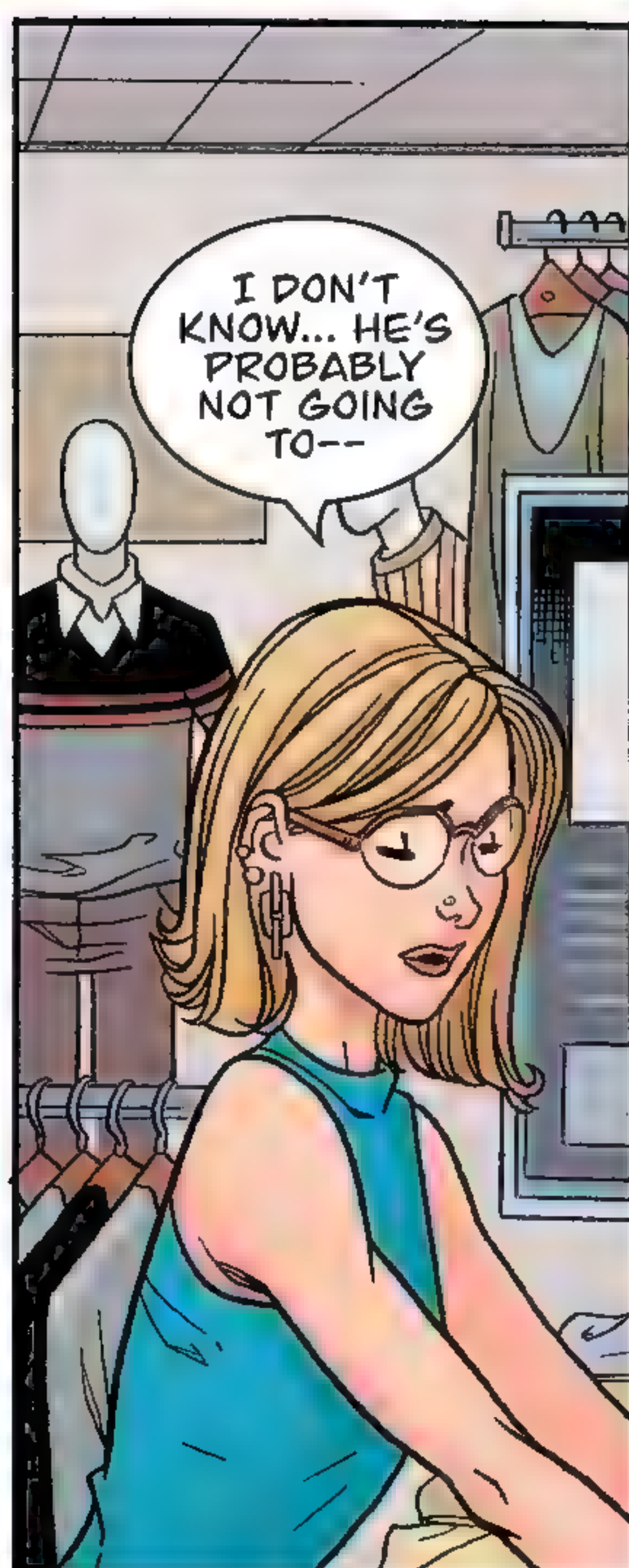
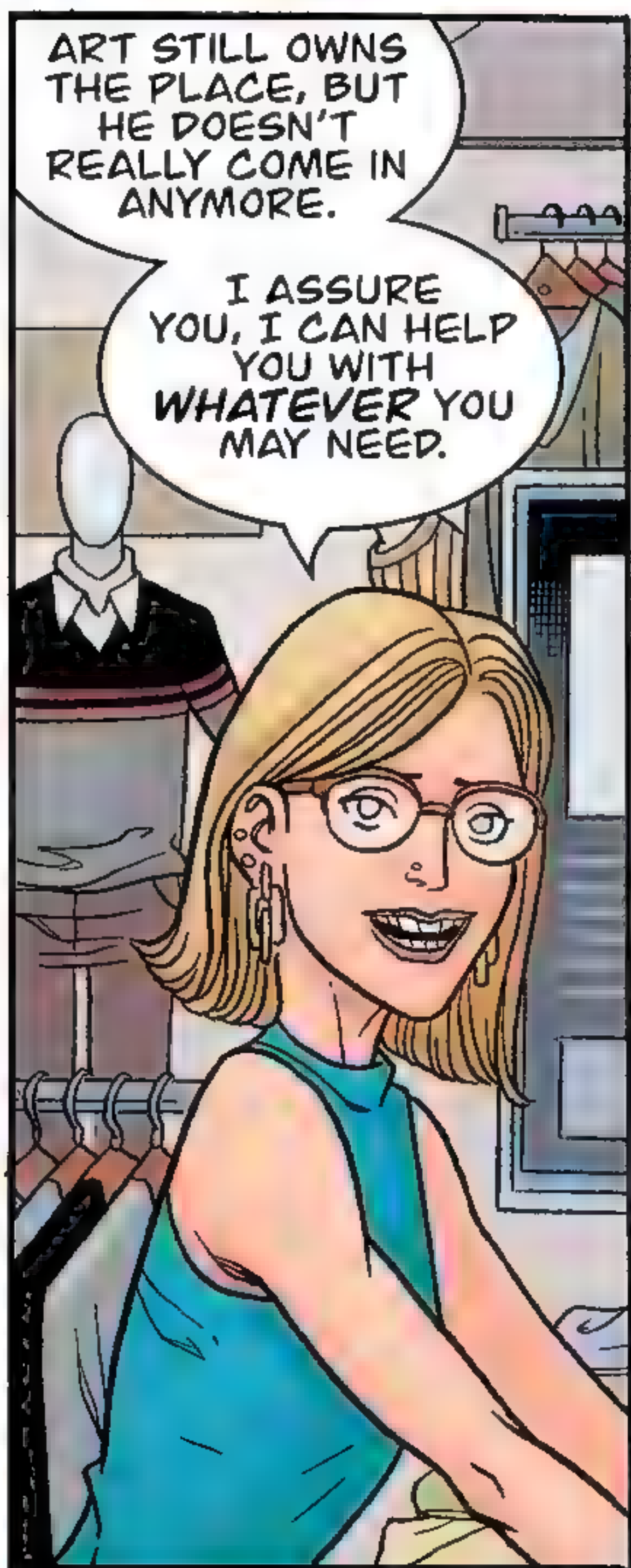
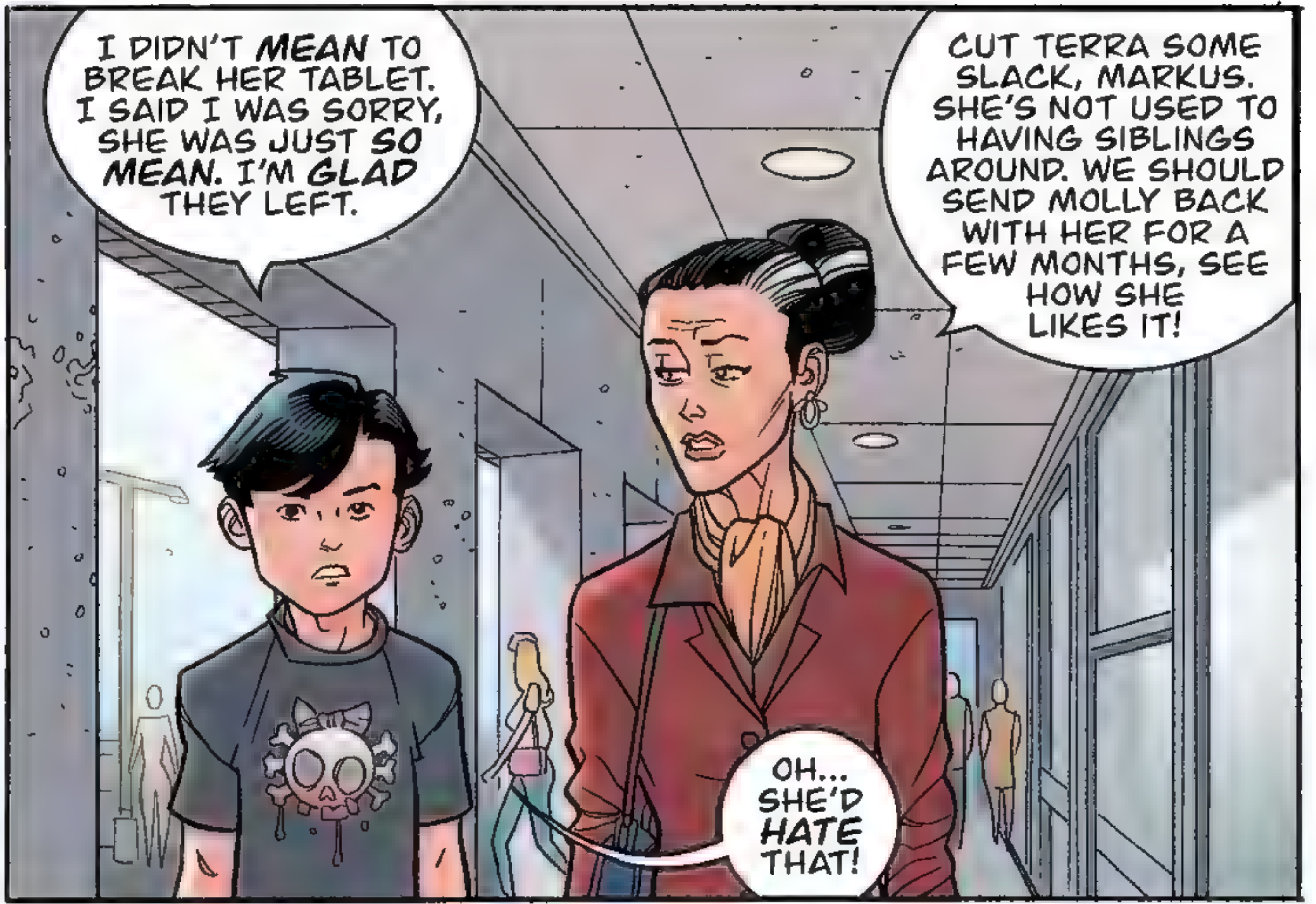


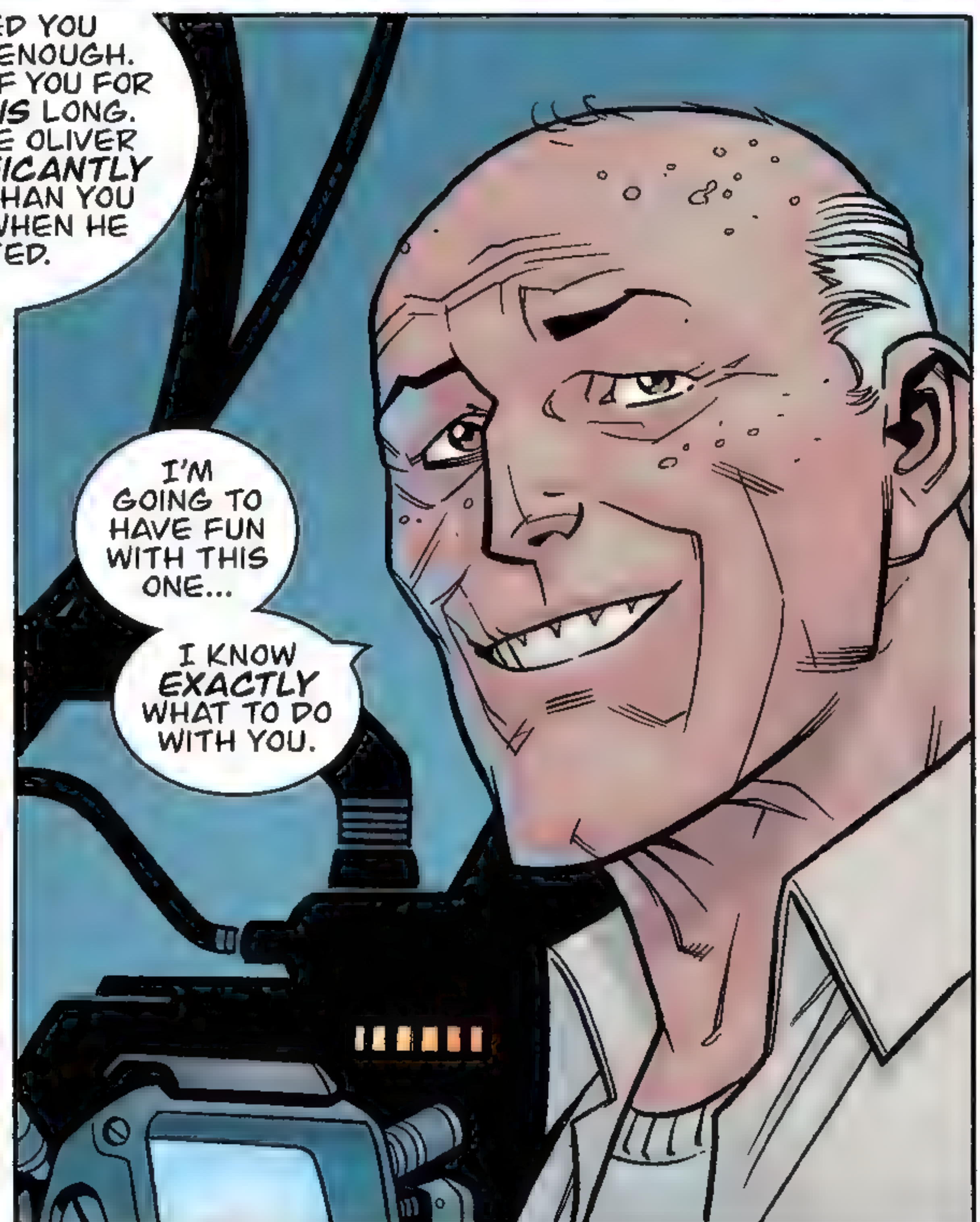
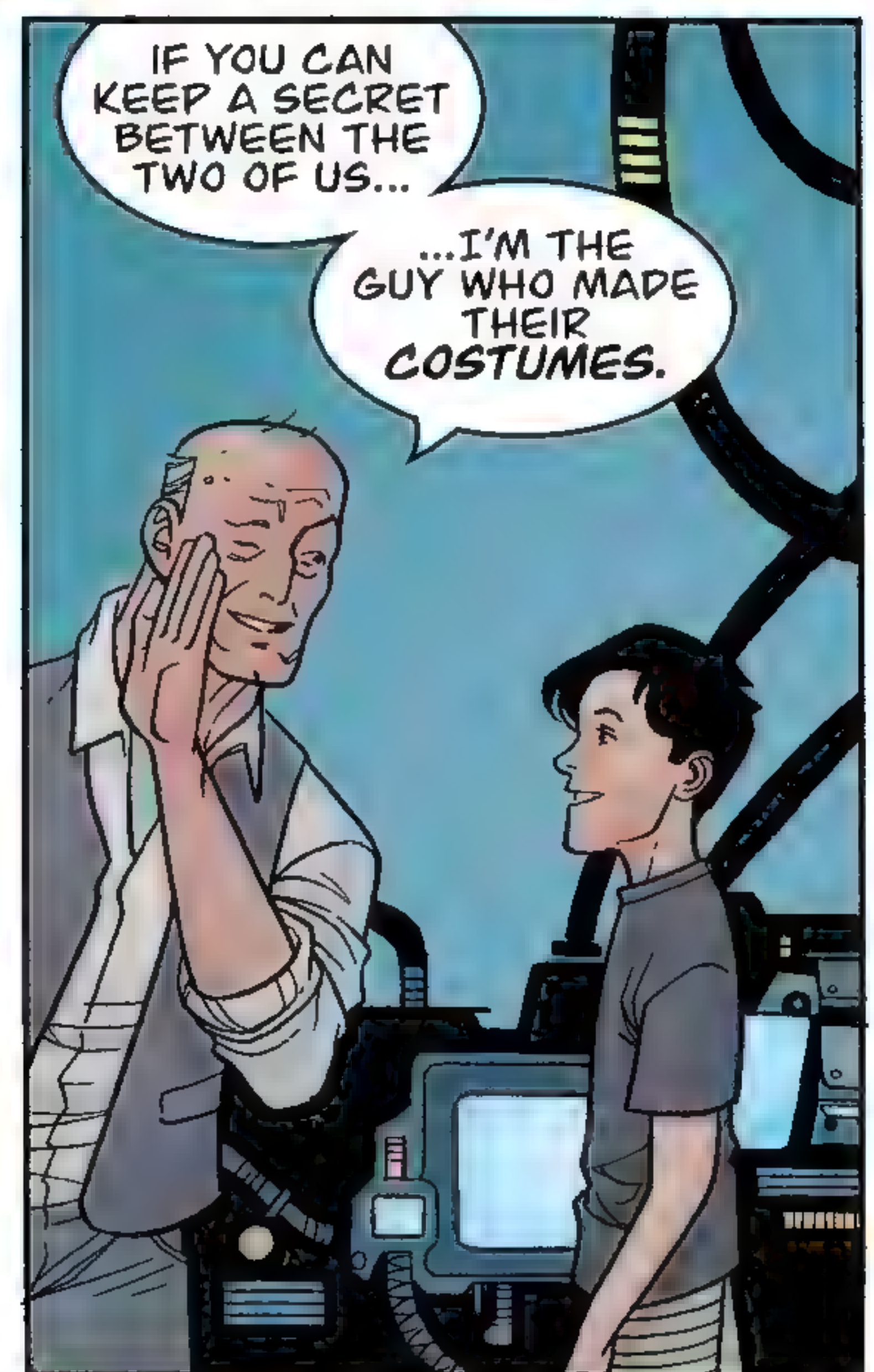
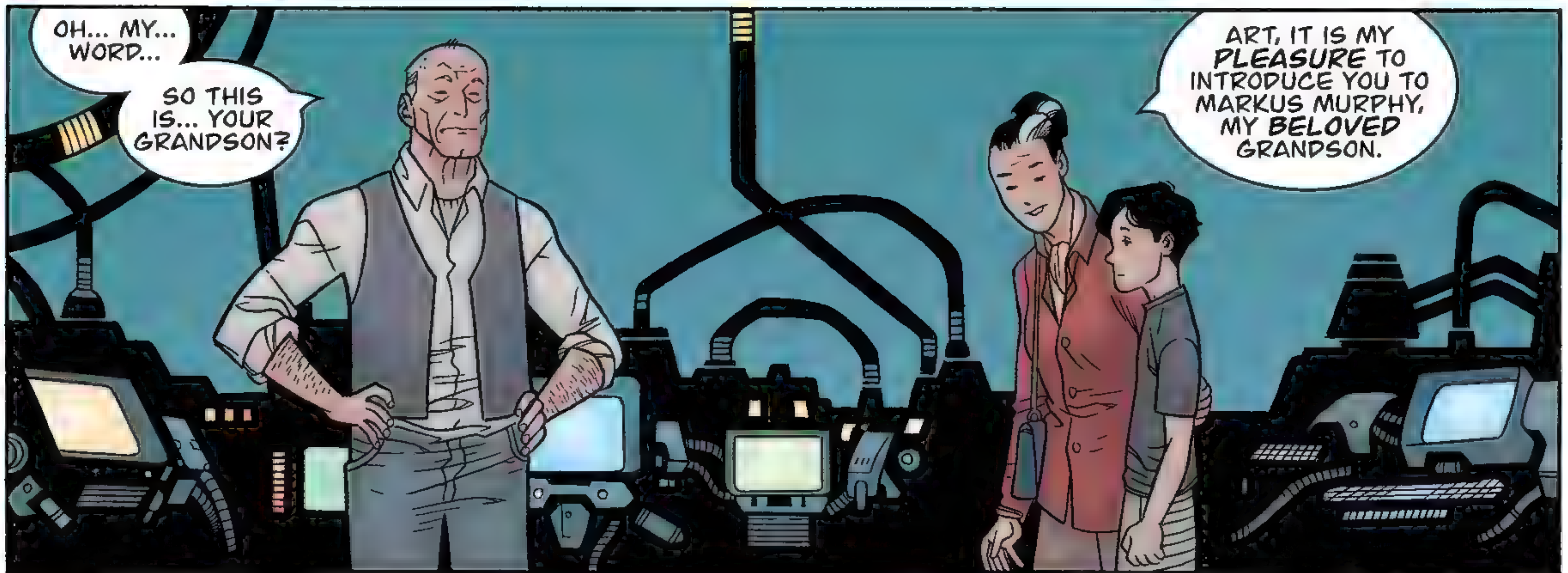




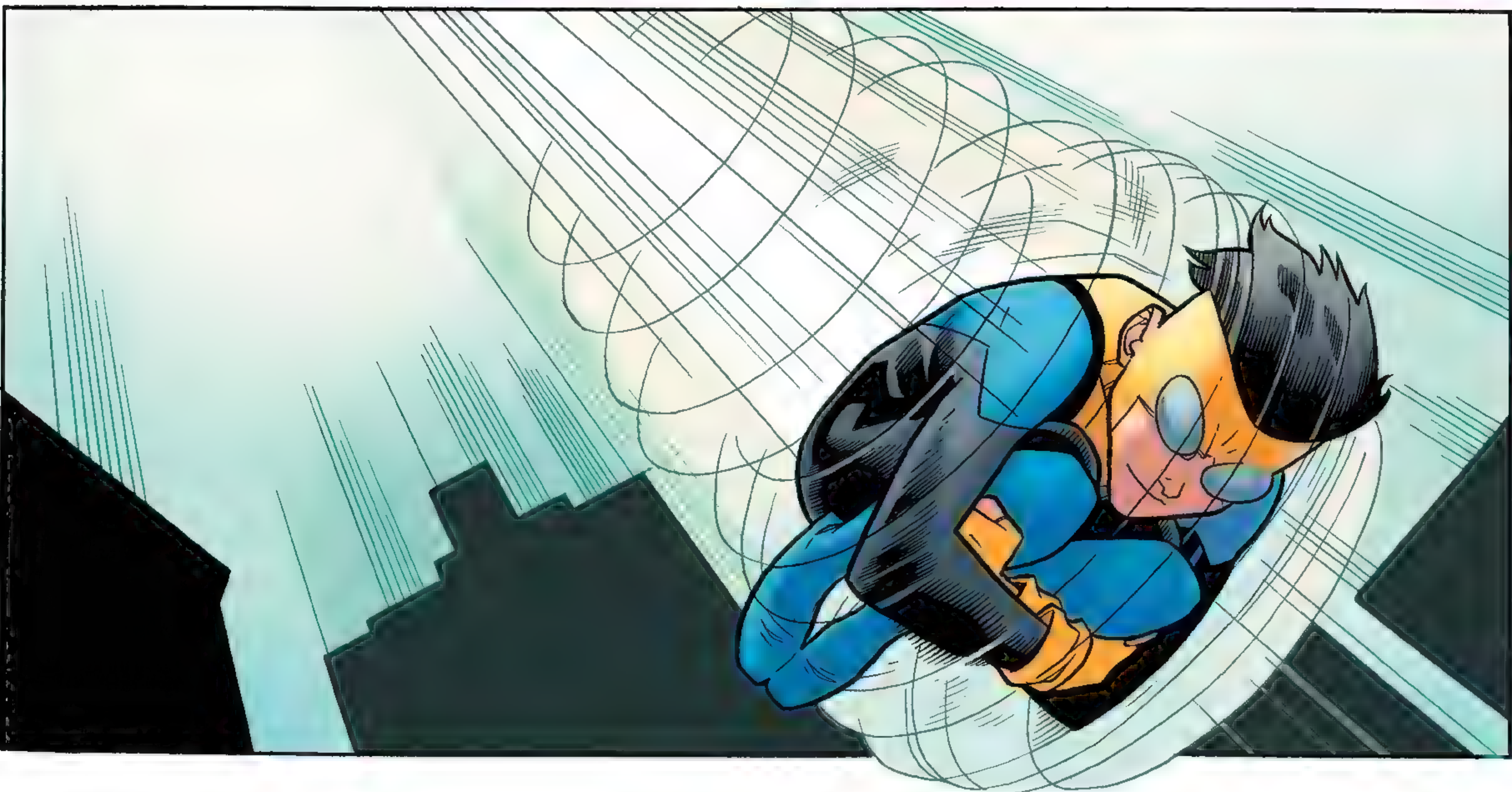
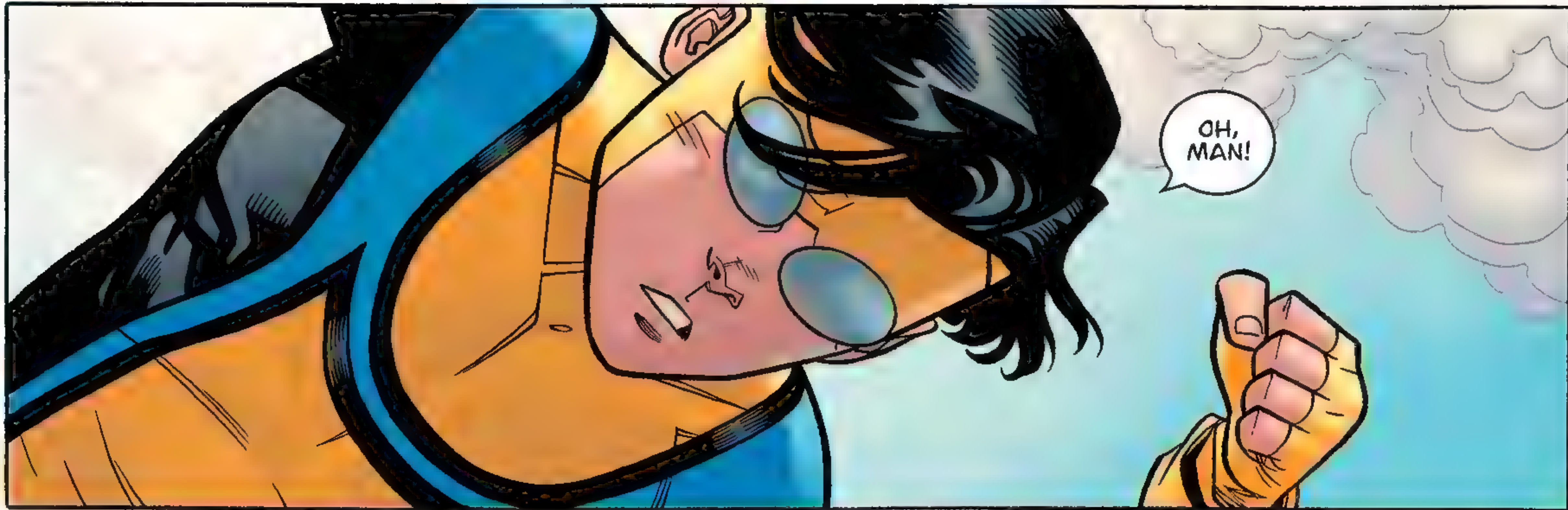




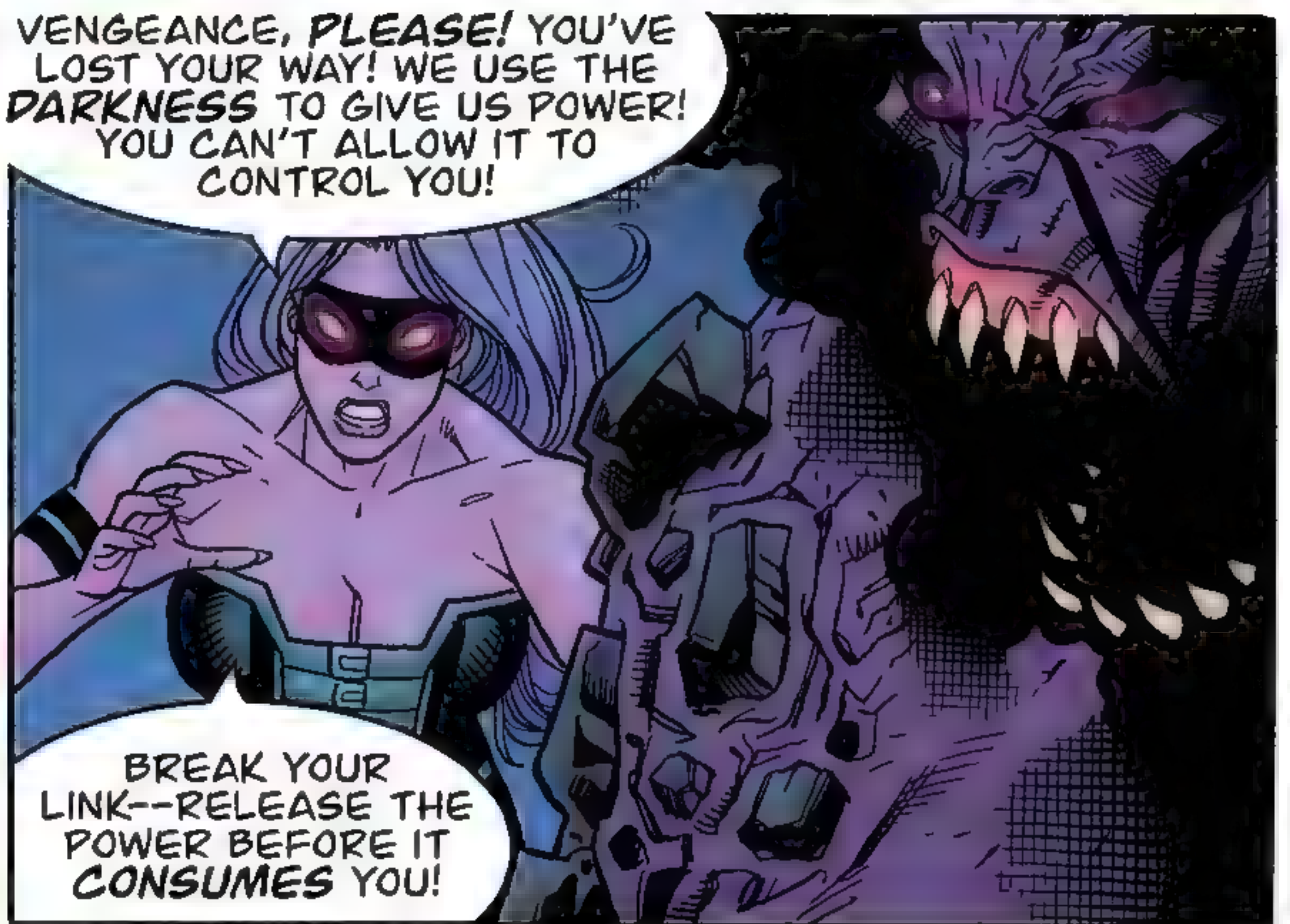
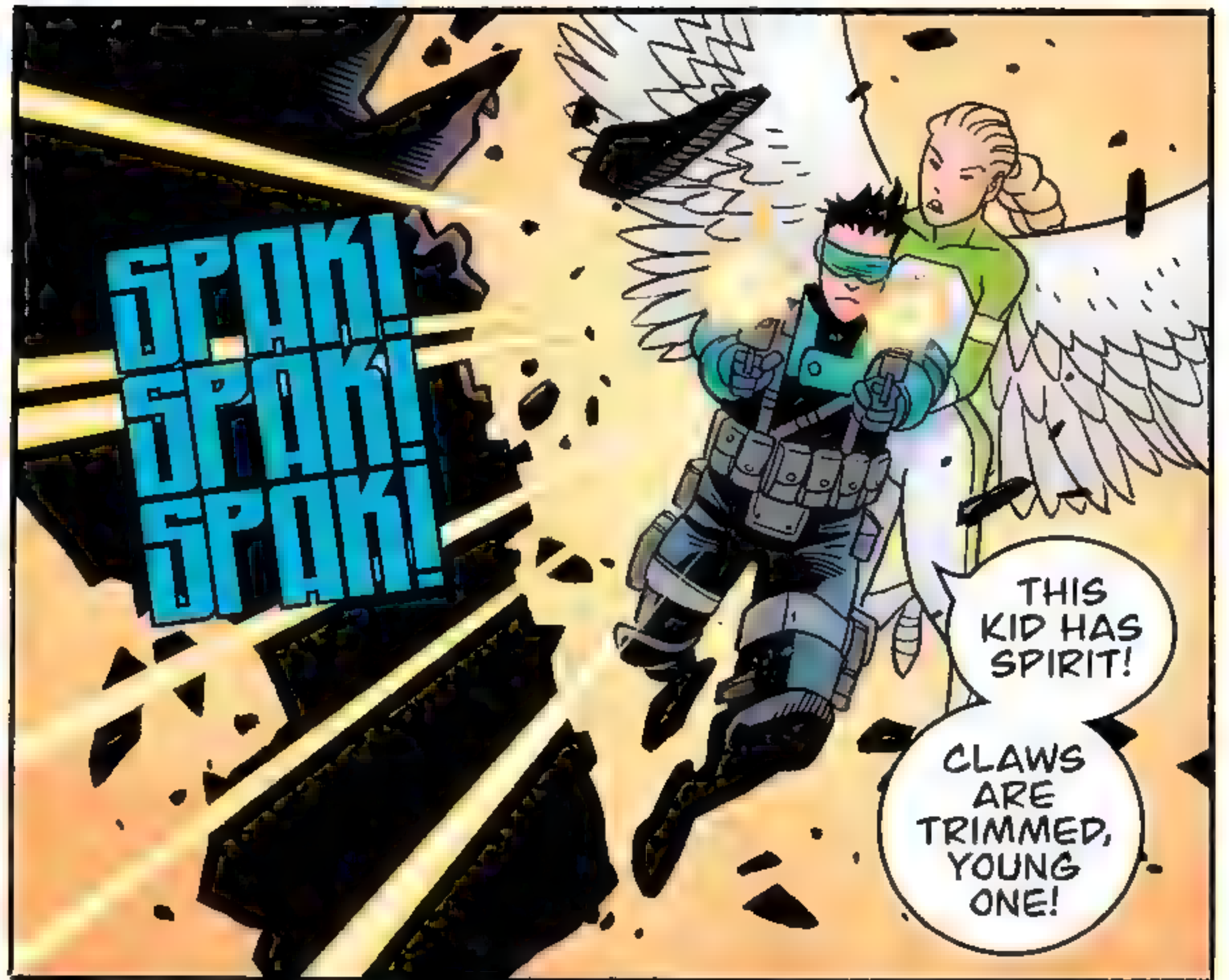


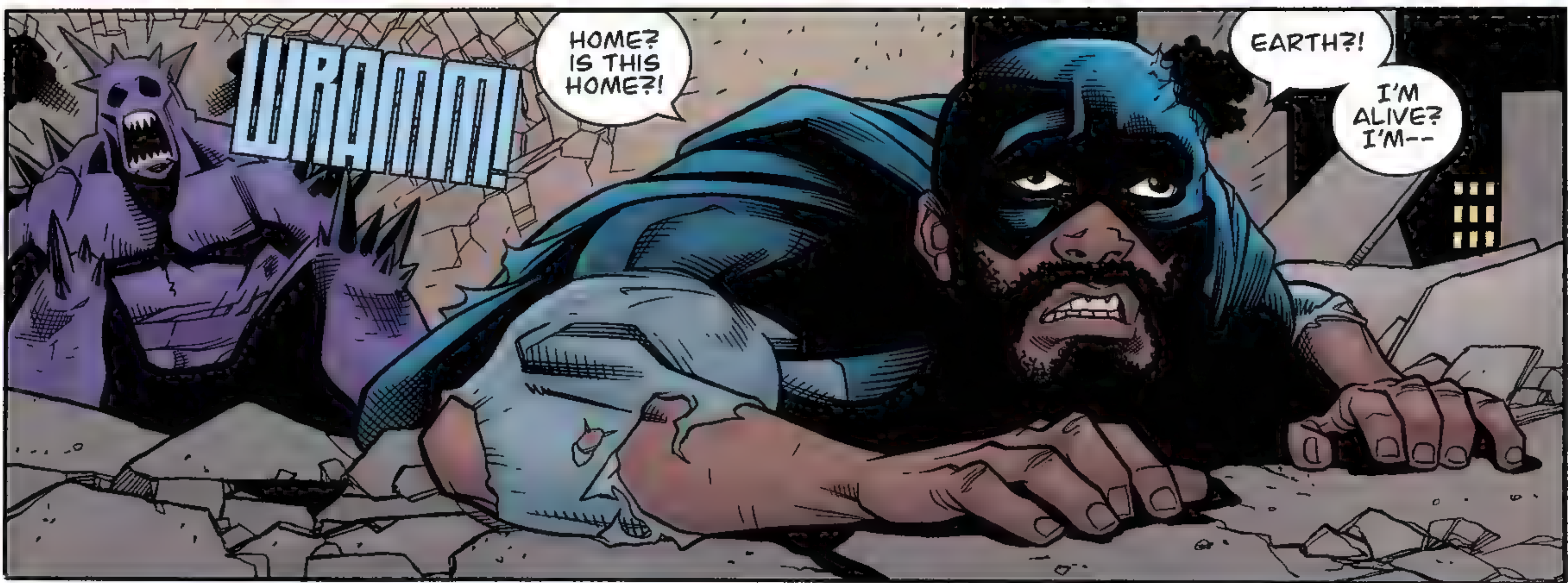


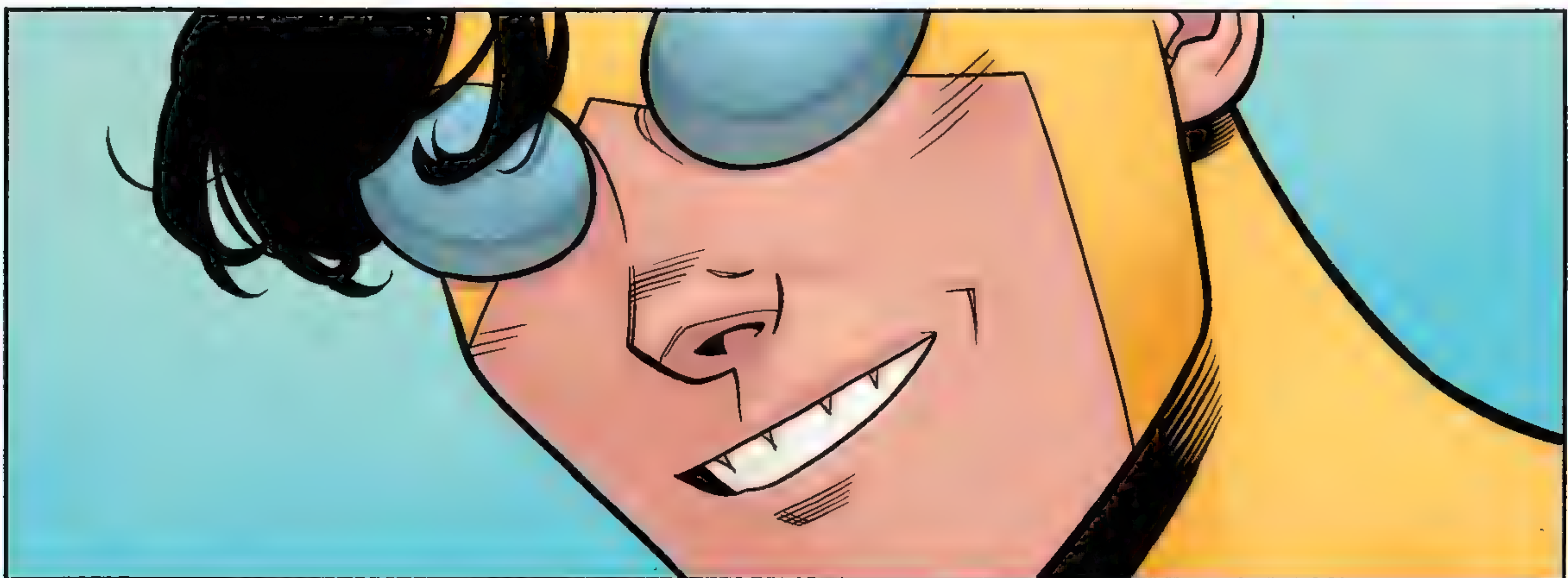
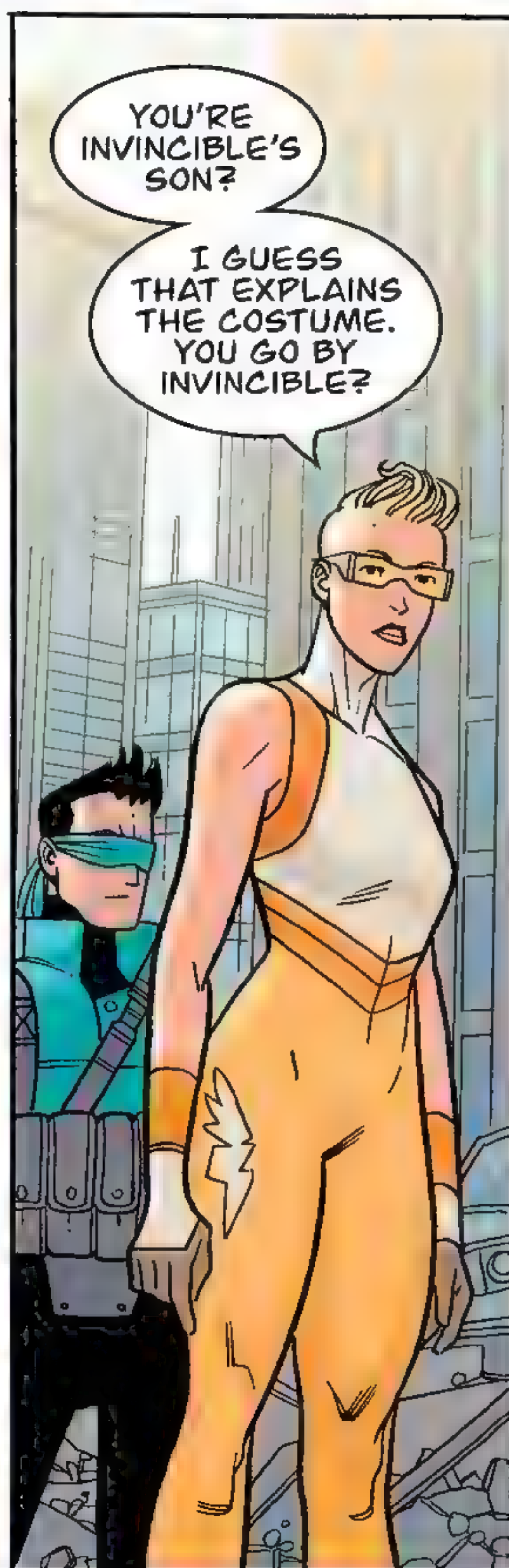
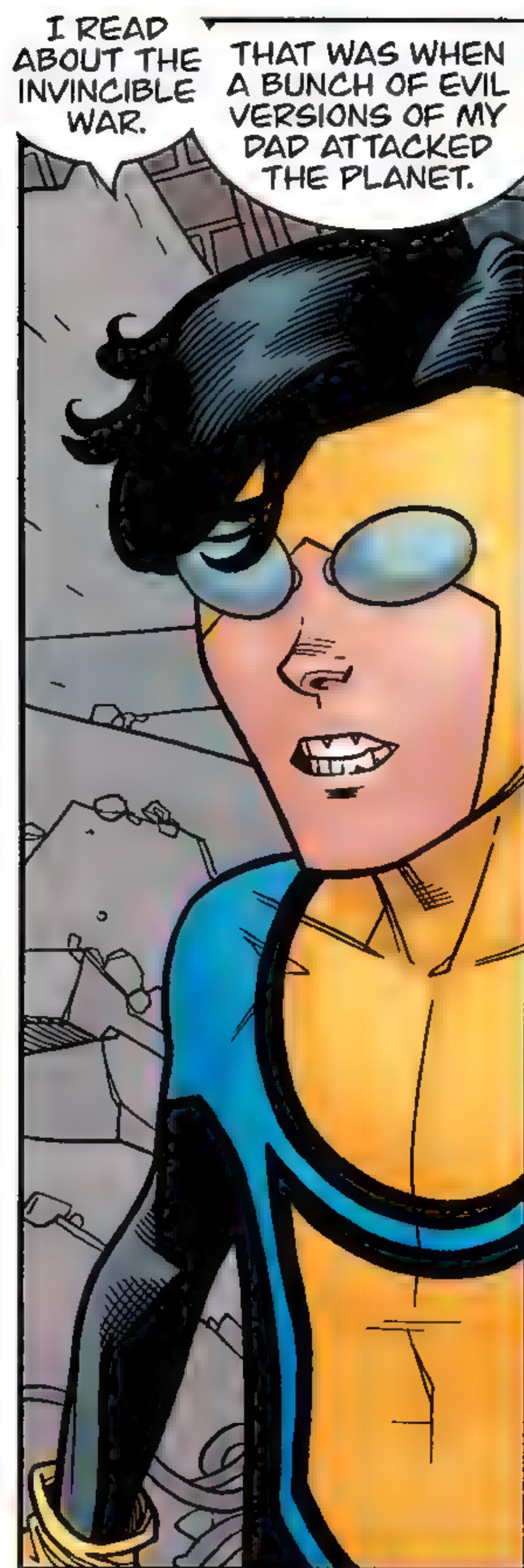
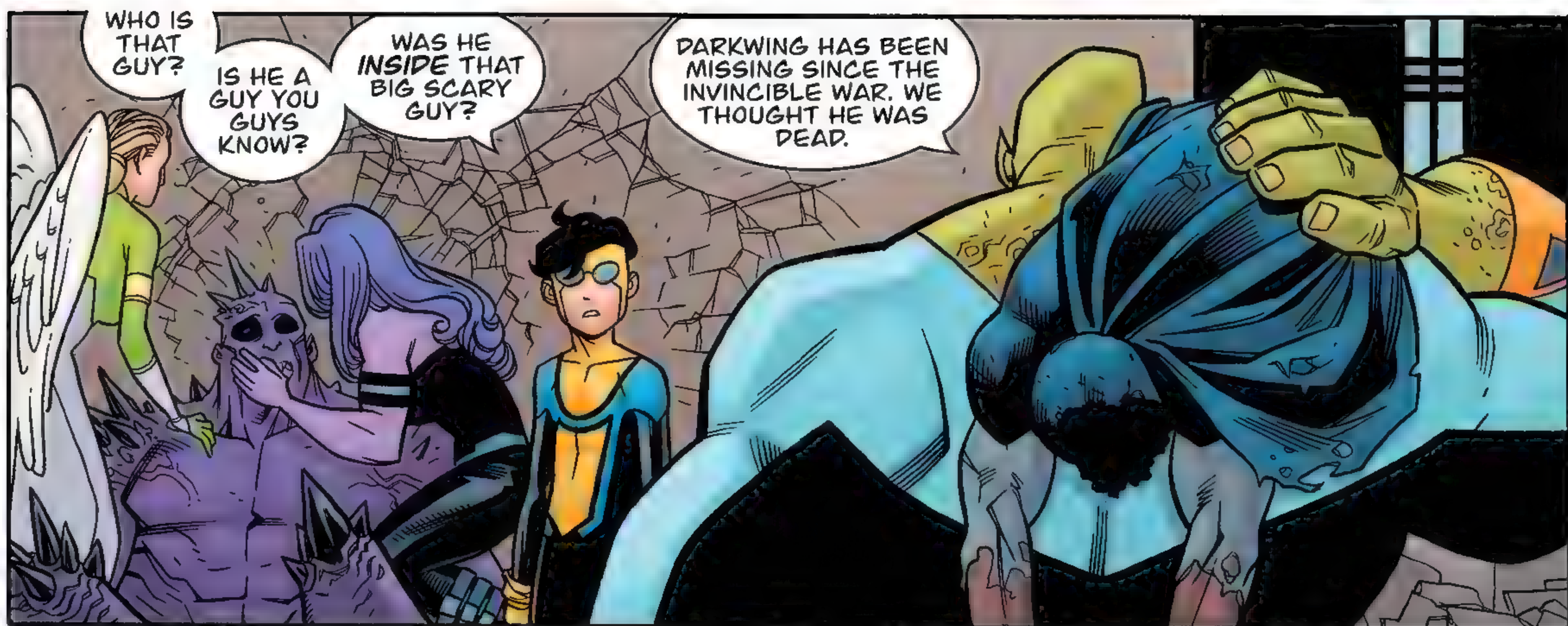


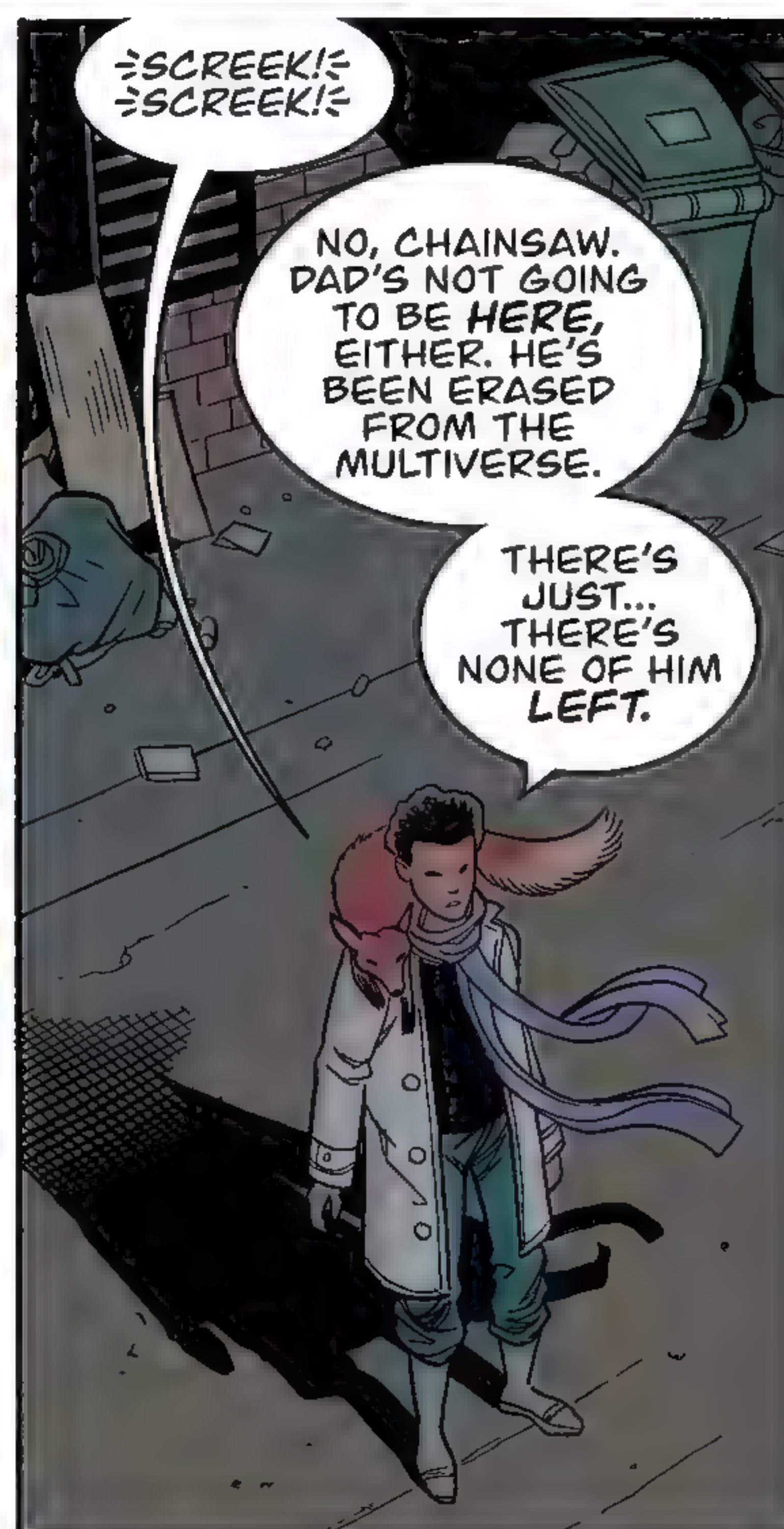


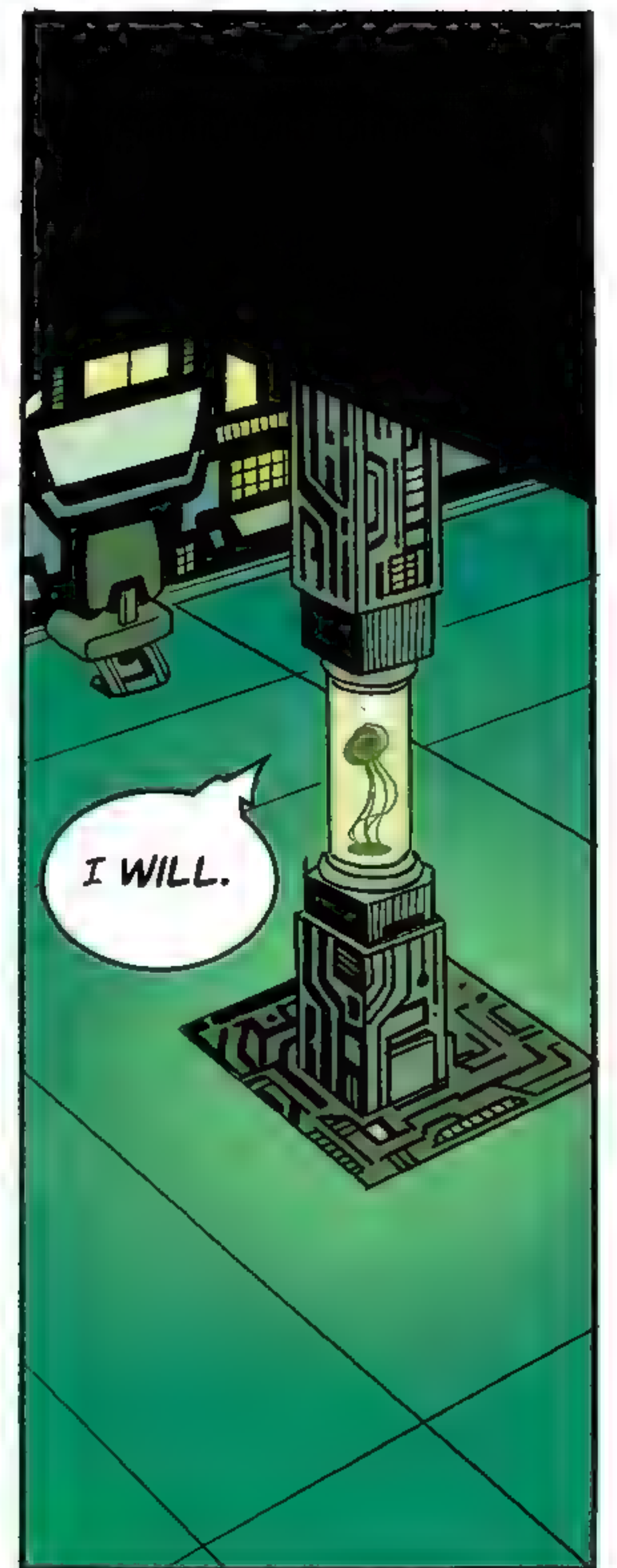
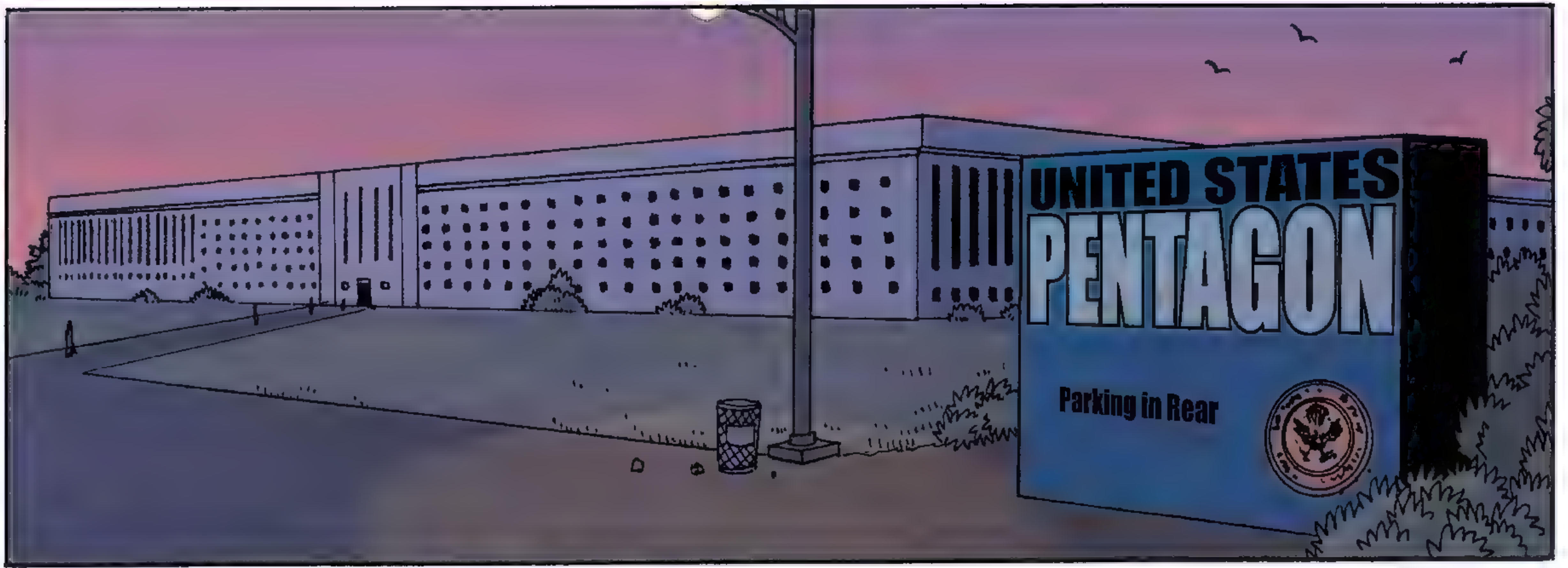


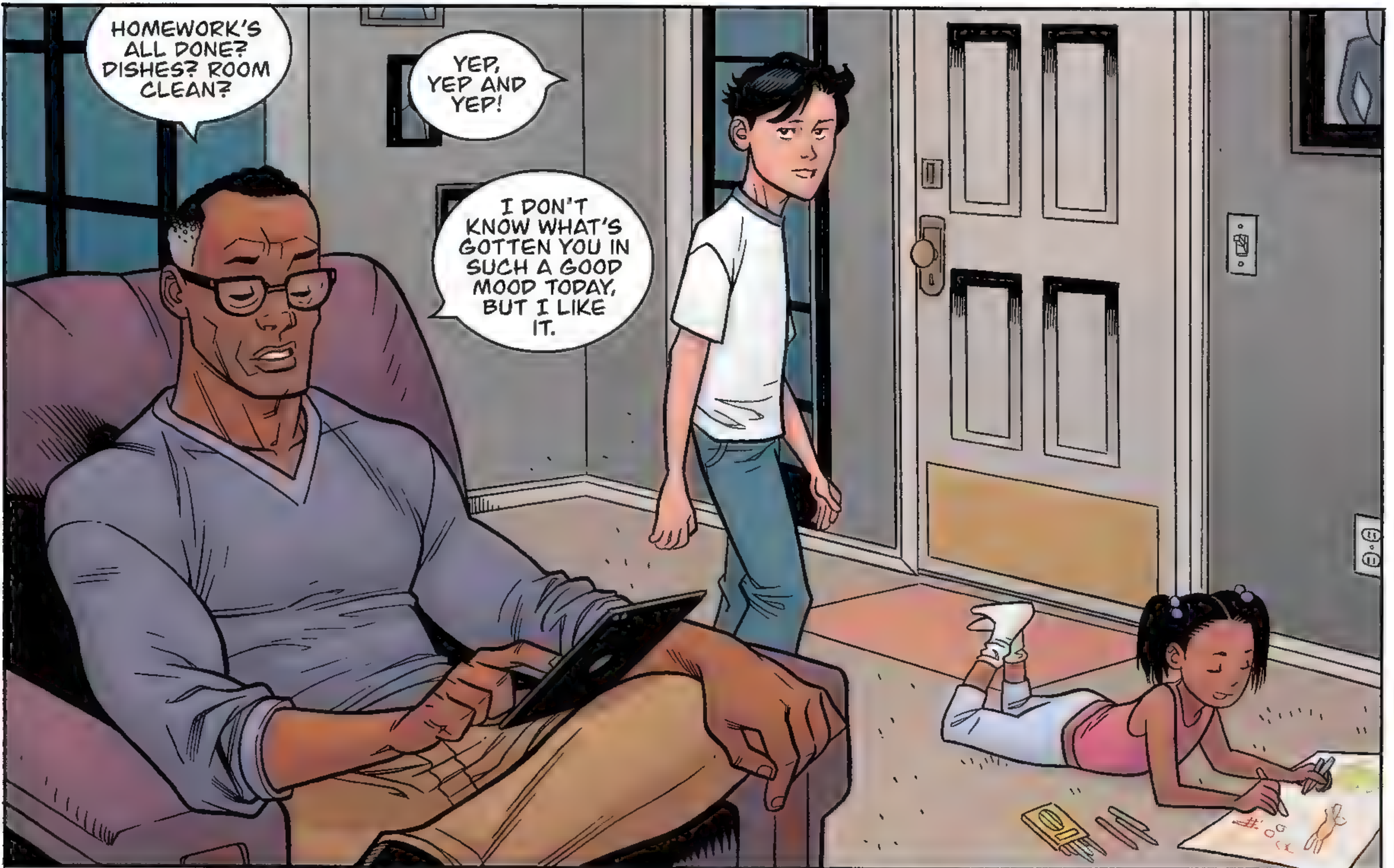
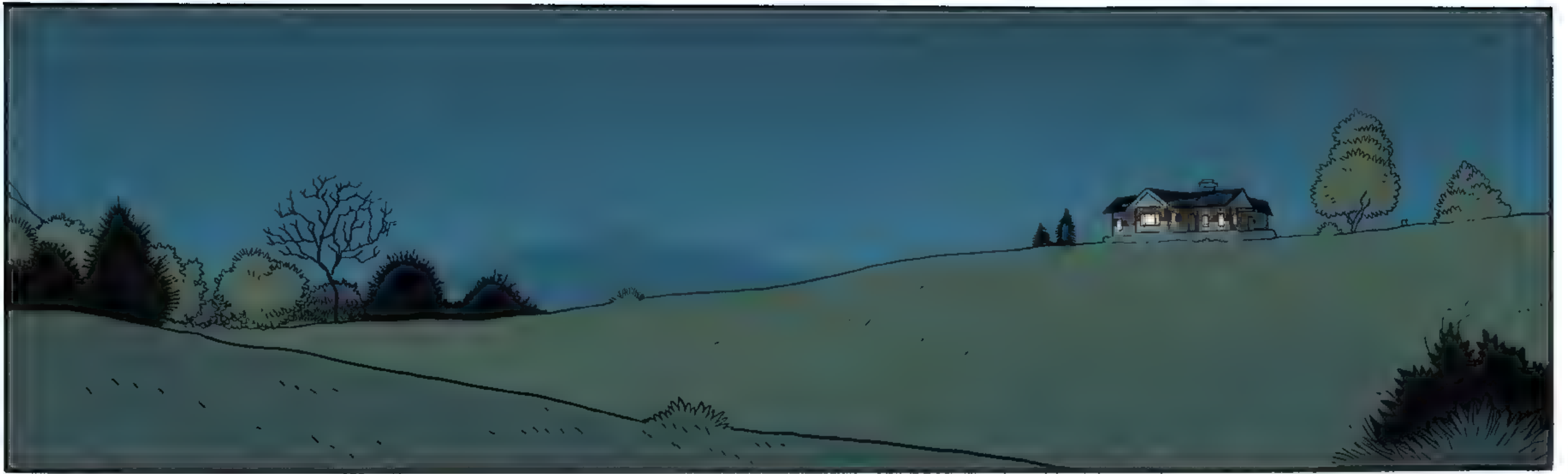


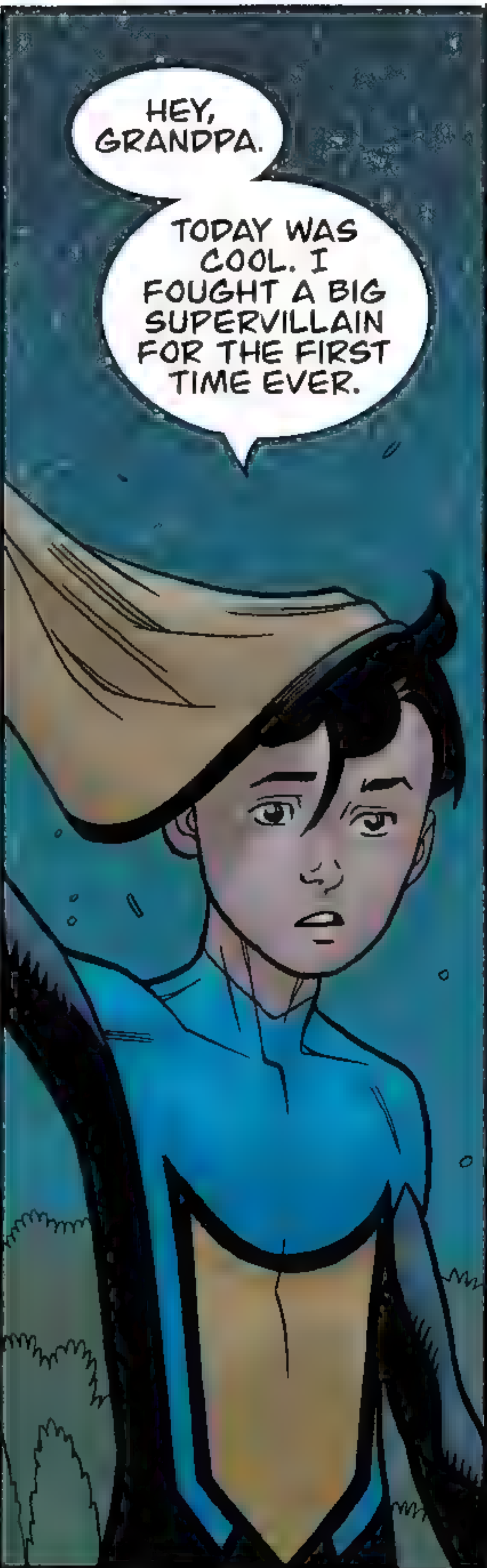
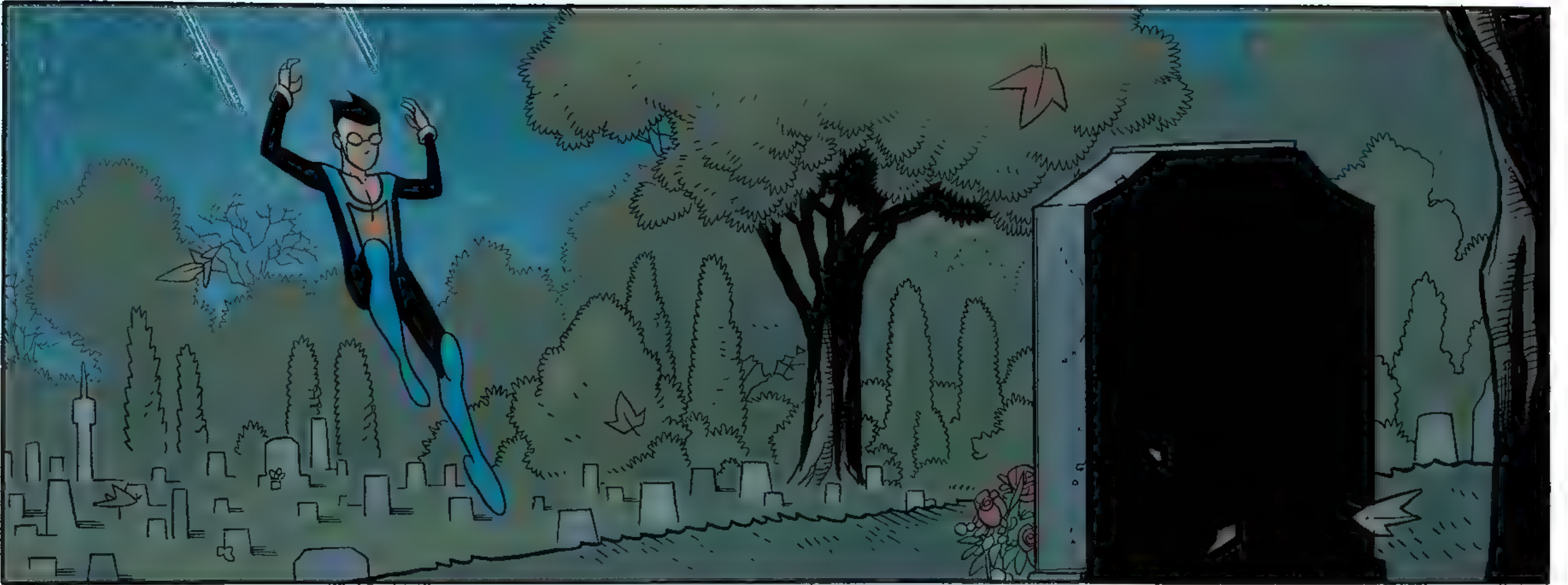






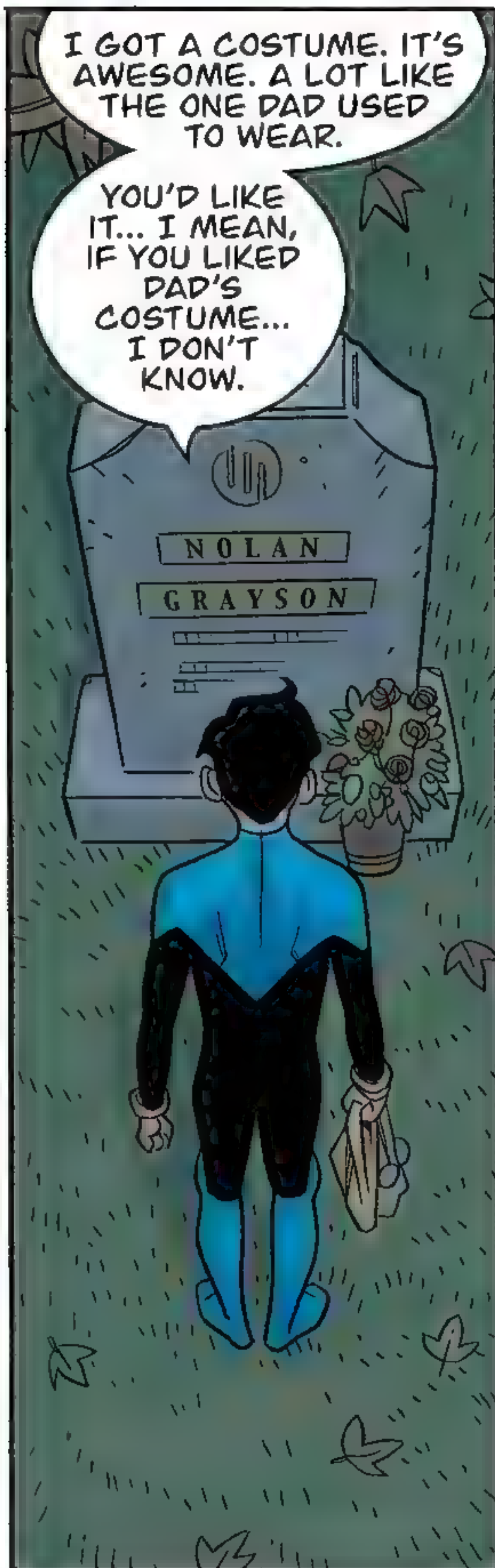






HEY,
GRANDPA.

TODAY WAS
COOL. I
FOUGHT A BIG
SUPERVILLAIN
FOR THE FIRST
TIME EVER.



I GOT A COSTUME. IT'S
AWESOME. A LOT LIKE
THE ONE DAD USED
TO WEAR.

YOU'D LIKE
IT... I MEAN,
IF YOU LIKED
DAD'S
COSTUME...
I DON'T
KNOW.



I WISH I GOT TO MEET
YOU. I KNOW YOU DID BAD
STUFF SOMETIMES... BUT
DAD TALKS ABOUT YOU
LIKE YOU WERE JUST
THE COOLEST.

MY REAL
DAD ISN'T
THE BIGGEST
FAN...



ANYWAY...
I'M KIND OF
THE NEW
INVINCIBLE
NOW. WHICH
IS PRETTY
COOL.

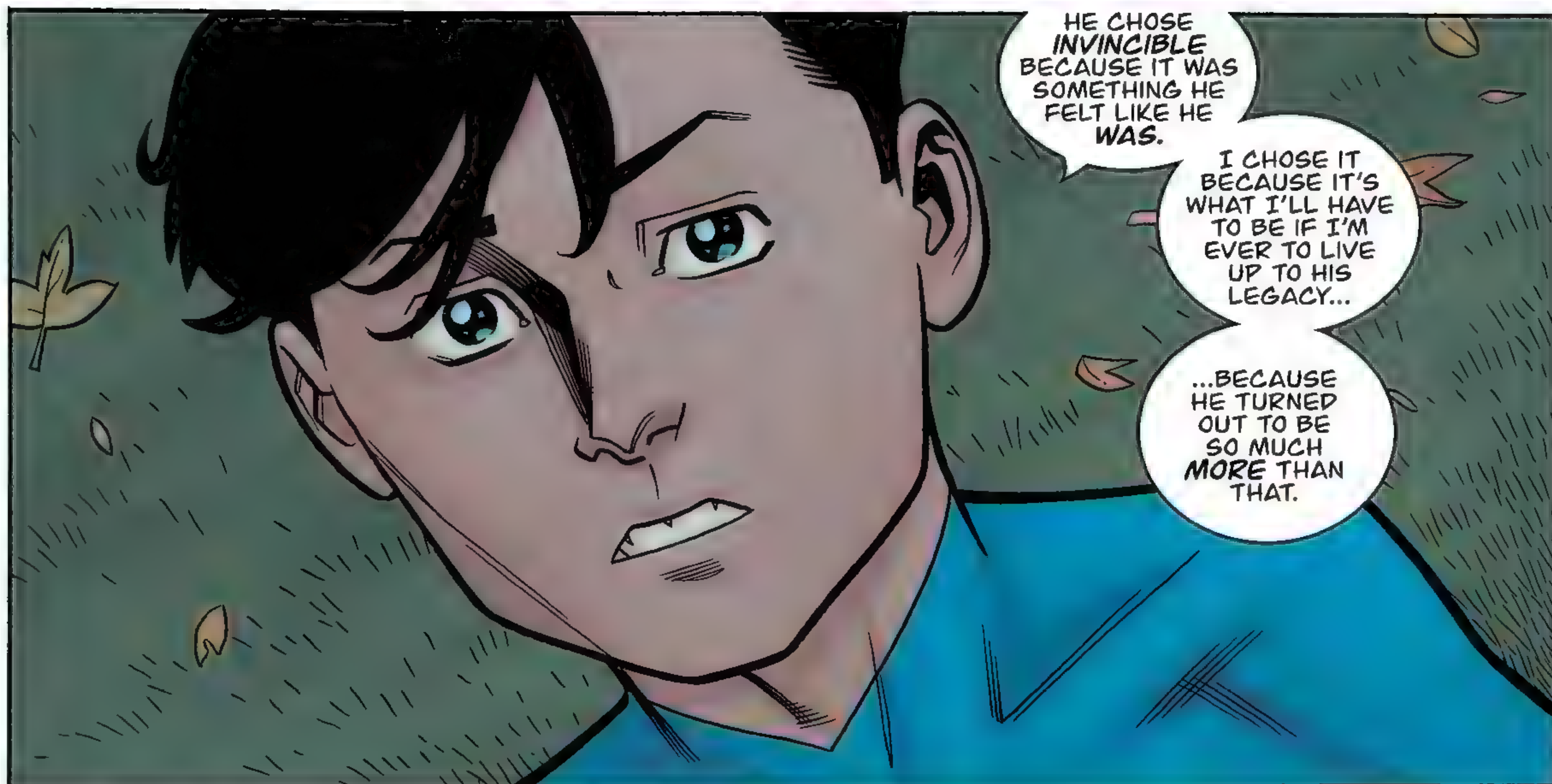


FEELS
FUNNY, THAT
NAME...
ESPECIALLY
BECAUSE IT'S
SOMETHING I
KNOW I'M
NOT.



MY DAD'S
OUT THERE...
FIXING THE
UNIVERSE. I THINK
ABOUT THAT EVERY
TIME I LOOK UP AT
THE STARS...

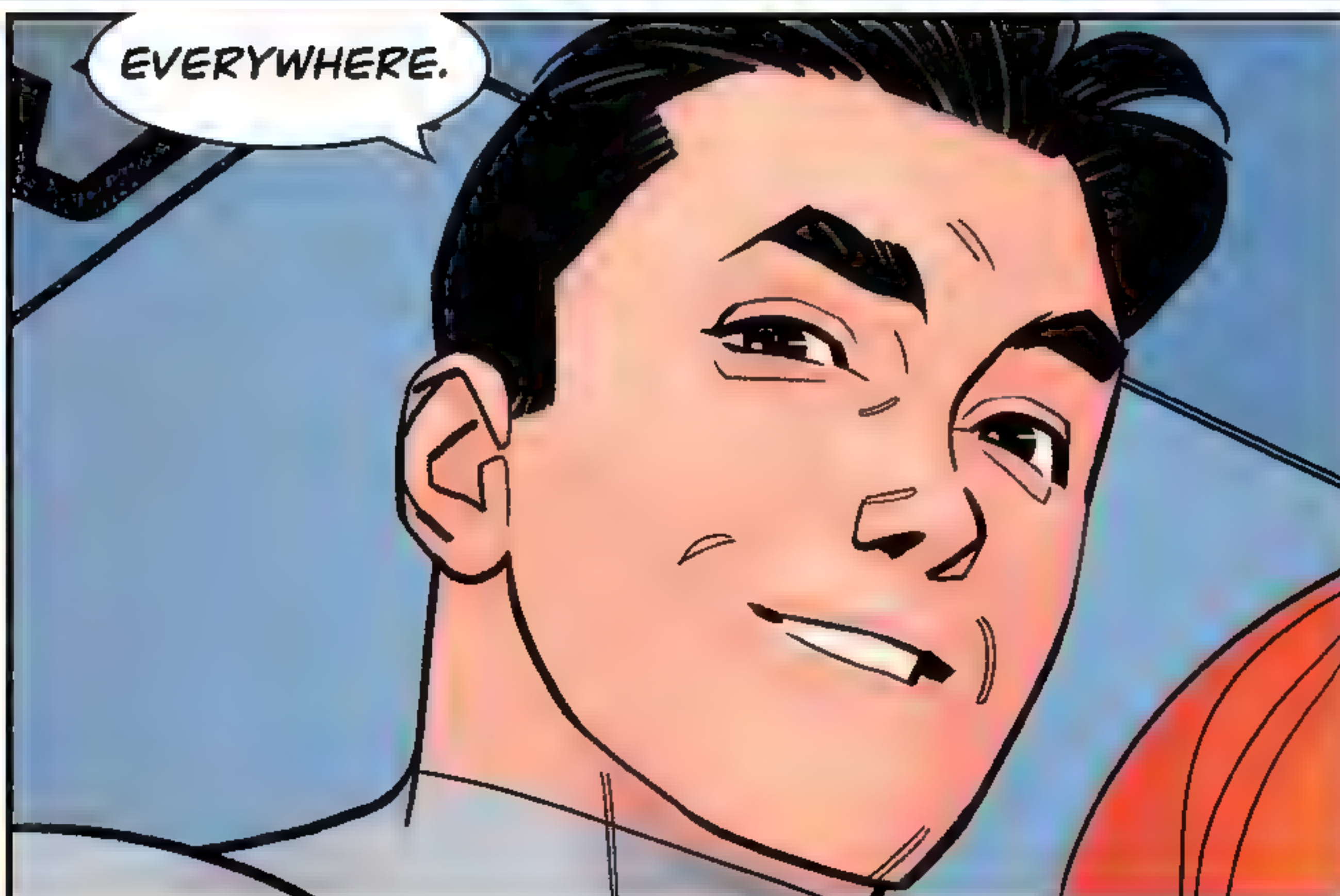
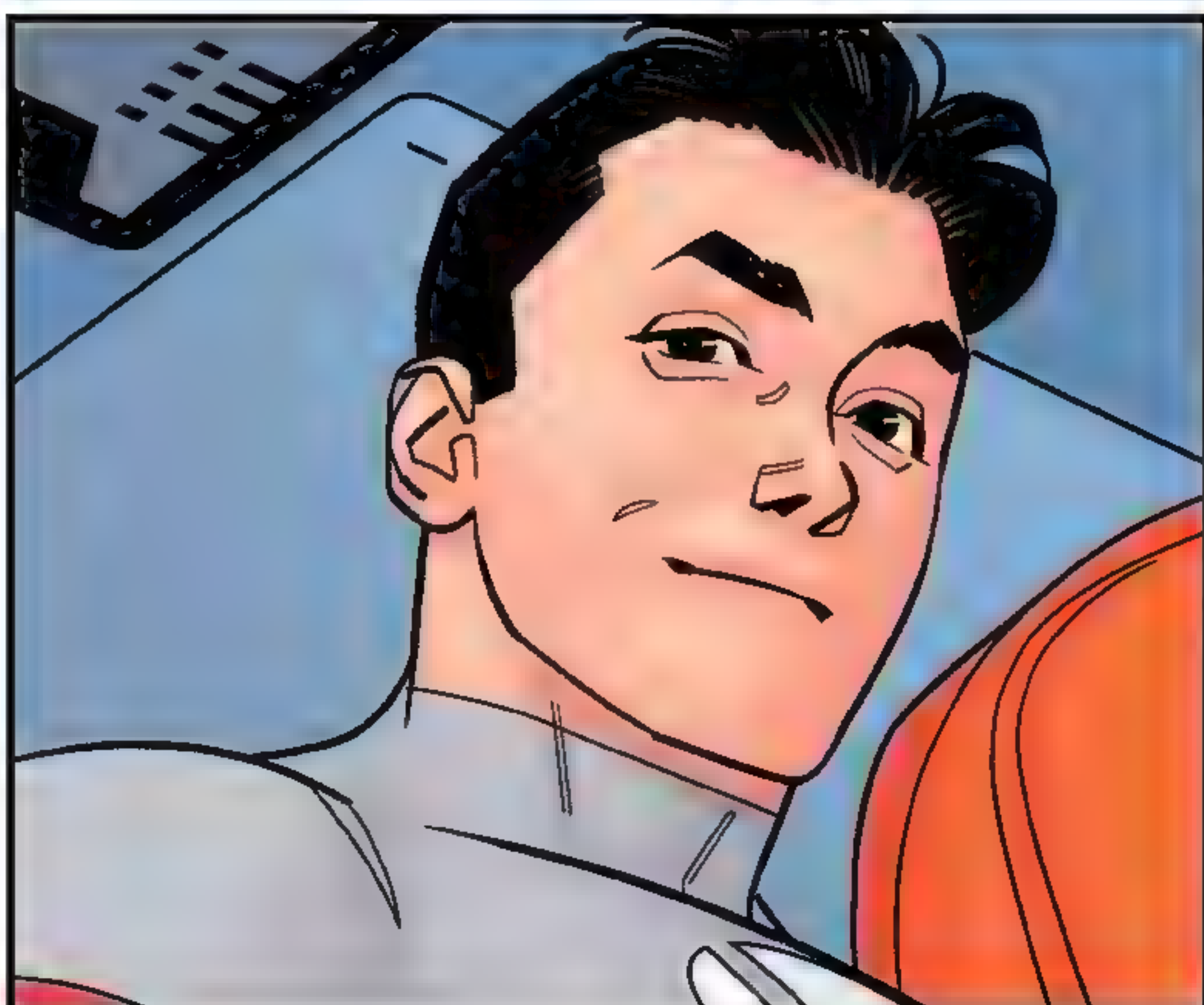
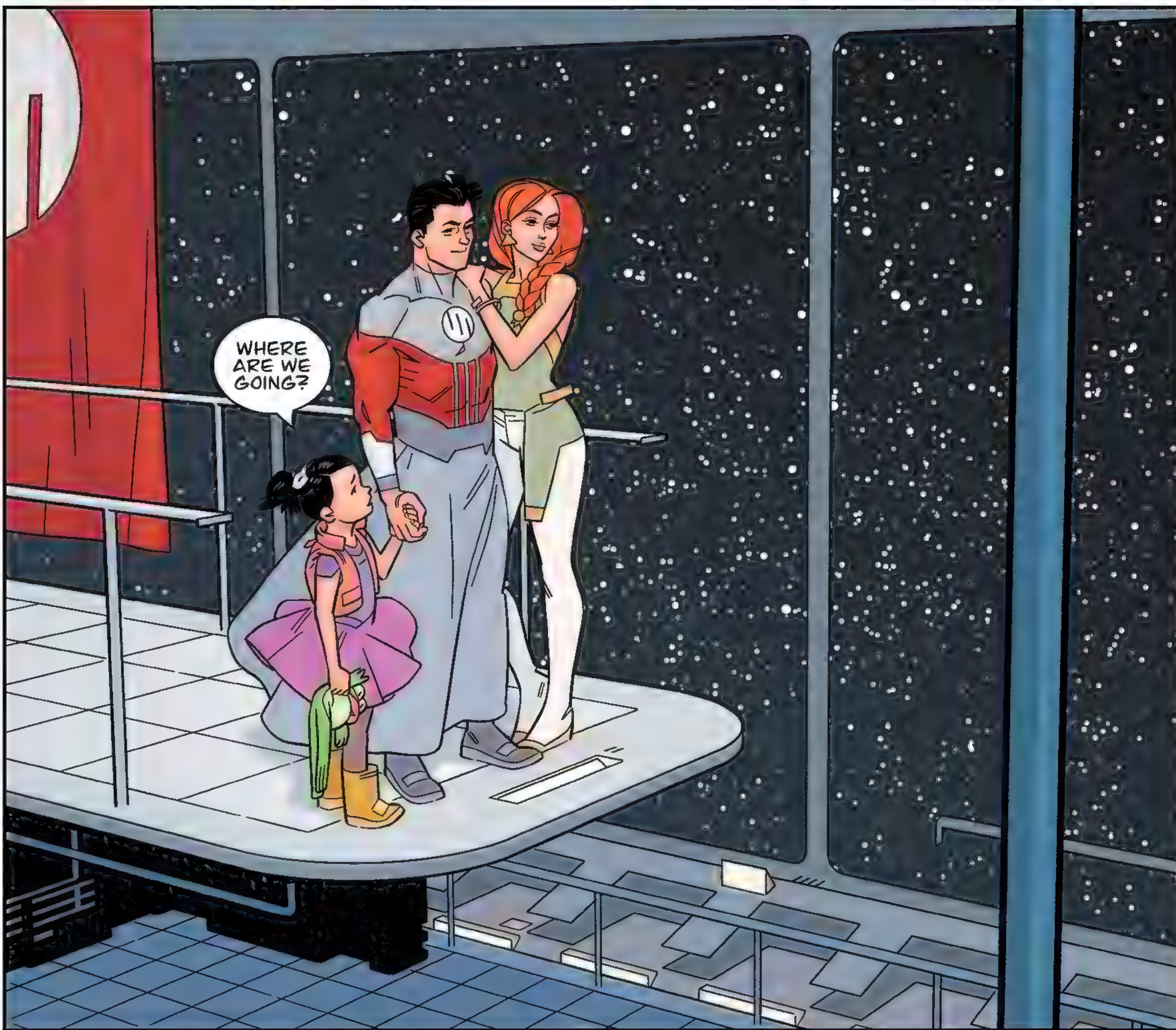
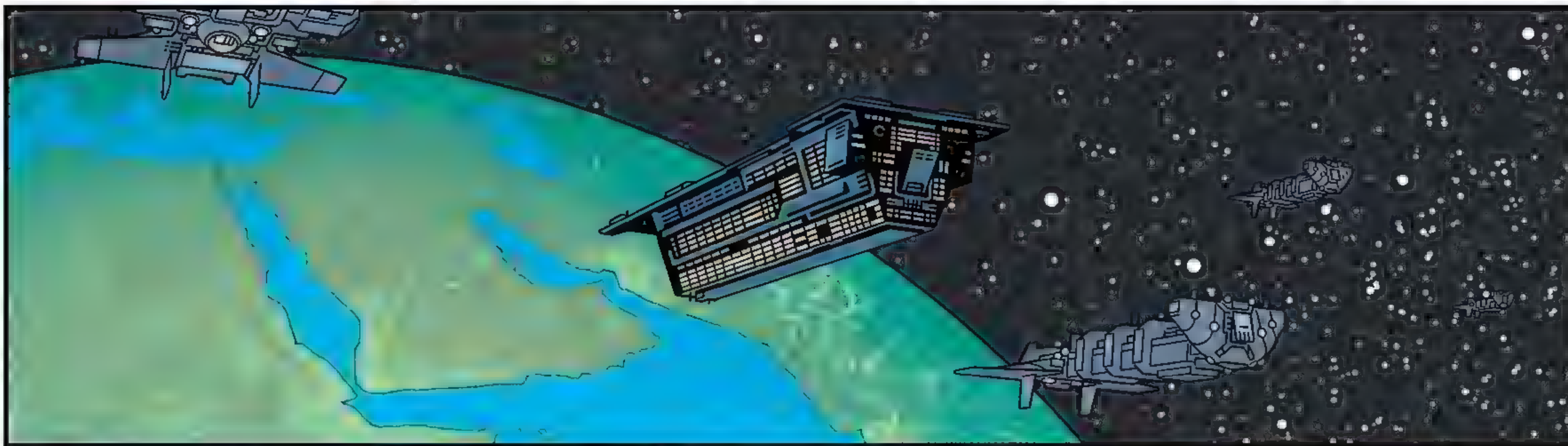
...BECAUSE
EACH LITTLE DOT
OF LIGHT IN THE SKY
IS A PLACE HE'S
MADE **BETTER**. I
LOOK UP... AND I
SEE **ALL** HE'S
DONE.

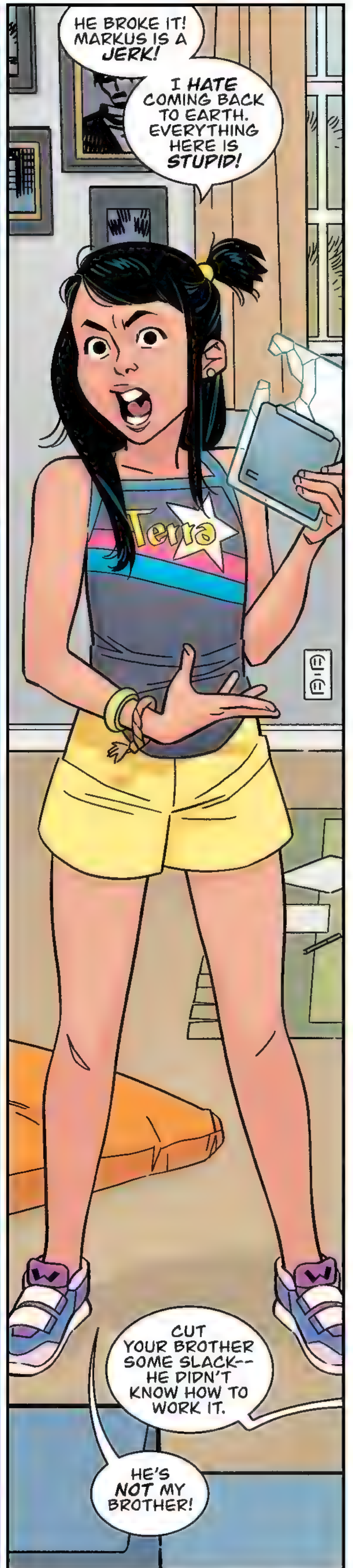
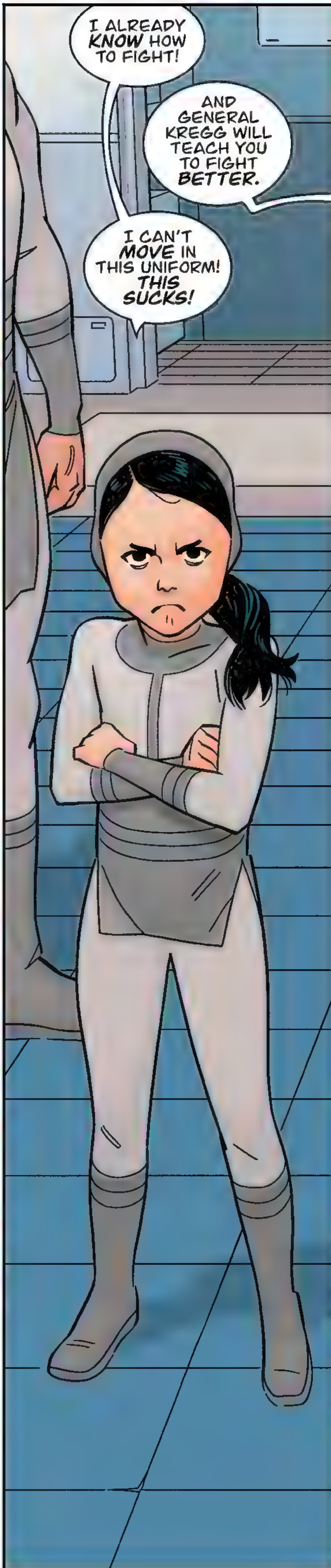
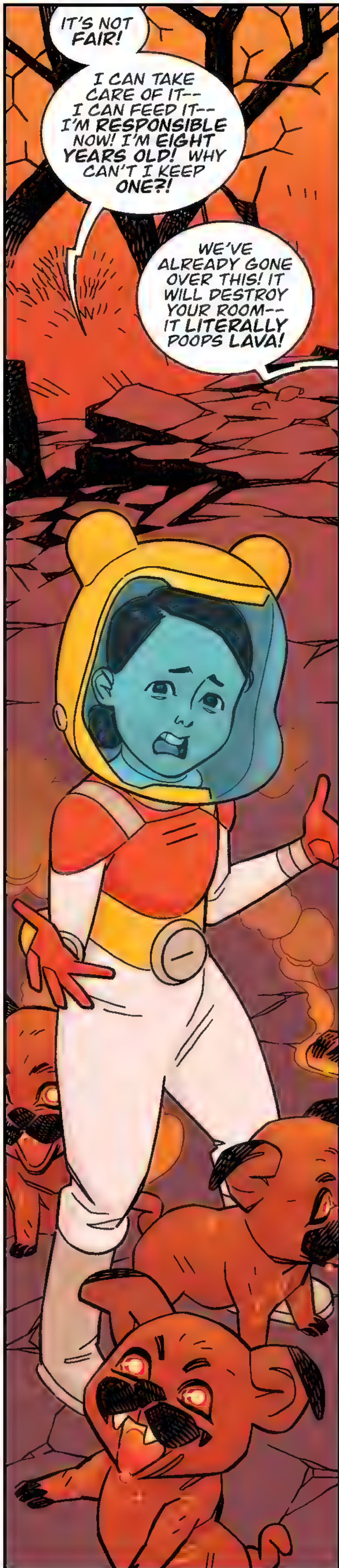


HE CHOSE
INVINCIBLE
BECAUSE IT WAS
SOMETHING HE
FELT LIKE HE
WAS.

I CHOSE IT
BECAUSE IT'S
WHAT I'LL HAVE
TO BE IF I'M
EVER TO LIVE
UP TO HIS
LEGACY...

...BECAUSE
HE TURNED
OUT TO BE
SO MUCH
MORE THAN
THAT.



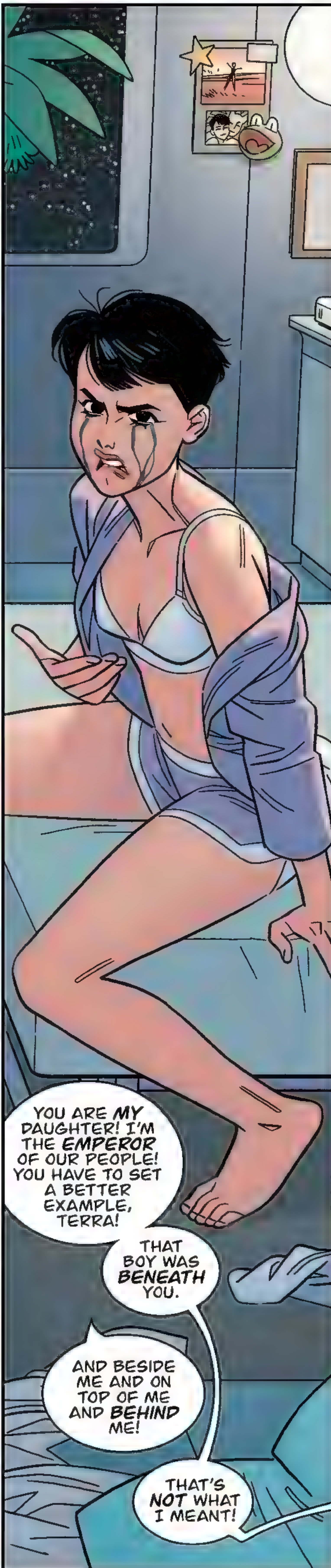




WE'RE OUT HERE **HELPING** PEOPLE! THAT'S WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO, RIGHT? I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY DID--THEY WERE **HUNGRY**--THEY WERE **SCARED**--THEY WERE DYING!

THEY **DESERVE** ANOTHER CHANCE!

OKAY, OKAY--CALM DOWN, AND WE'LL WORK IT OUT.



YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER! I'M THE **EMPEROR** OF OUR PEOPLE! YOU HAVE TO SET A BETTER EXAMPLE, TERRA!

THAT BOY WAS **BENEATH** YOU.

AND BESIDE ME AND ON TOP OF ME AND **BEHIND** ME!

THAT'S **NOT** WHAT I MEANT!

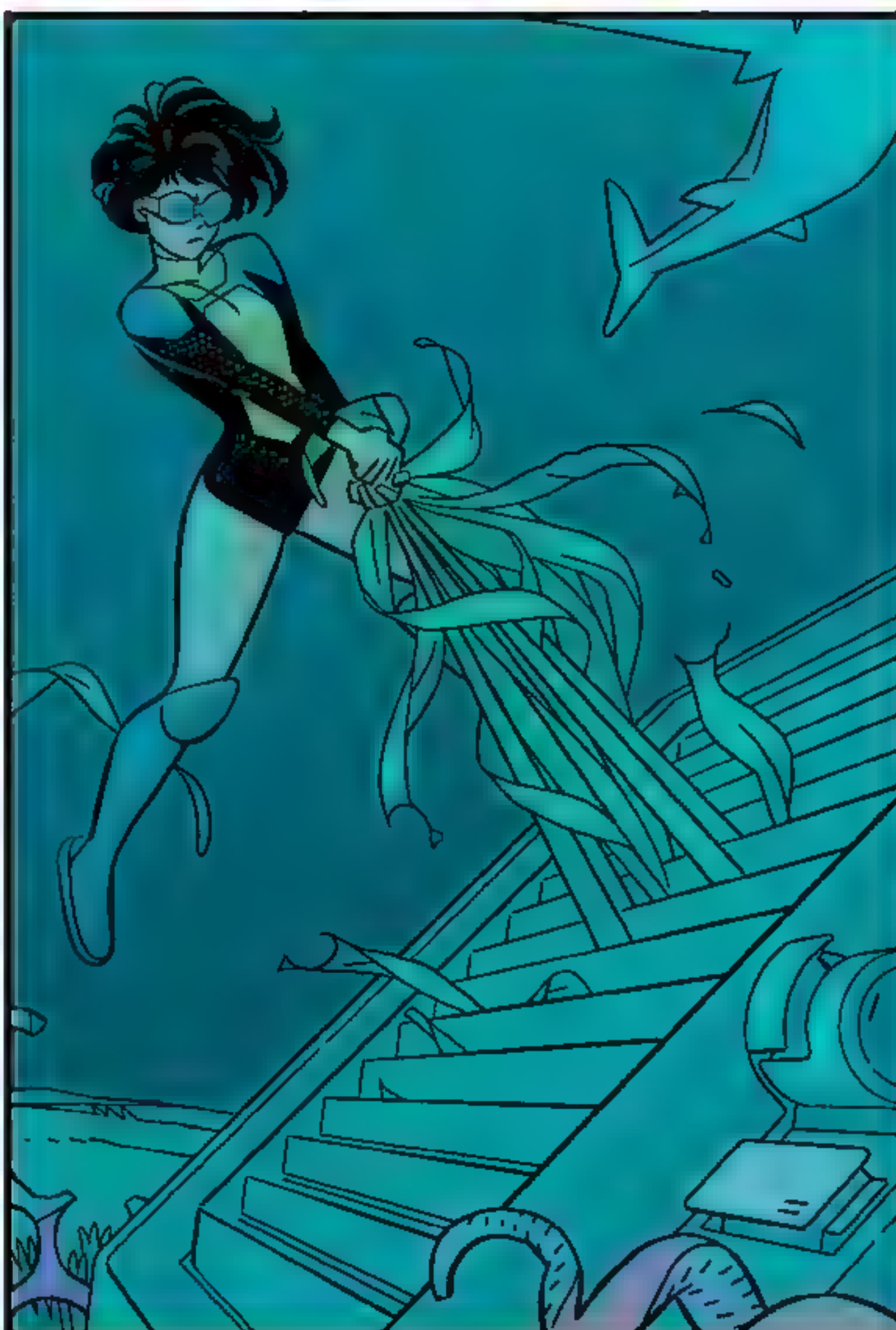
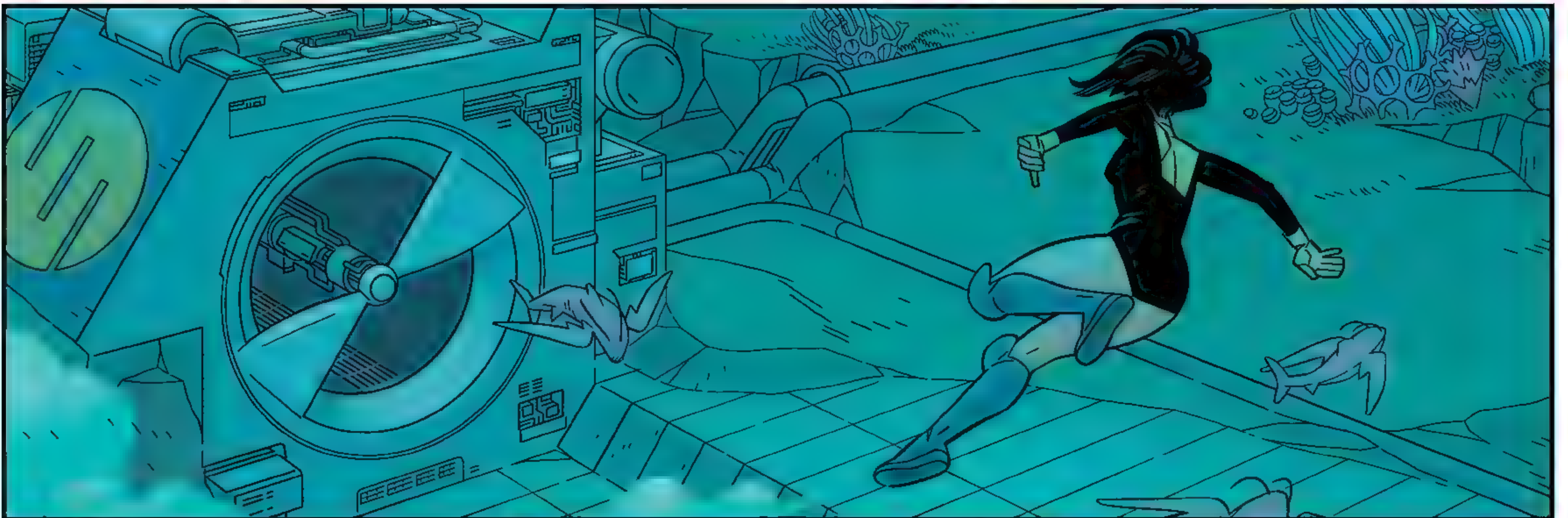
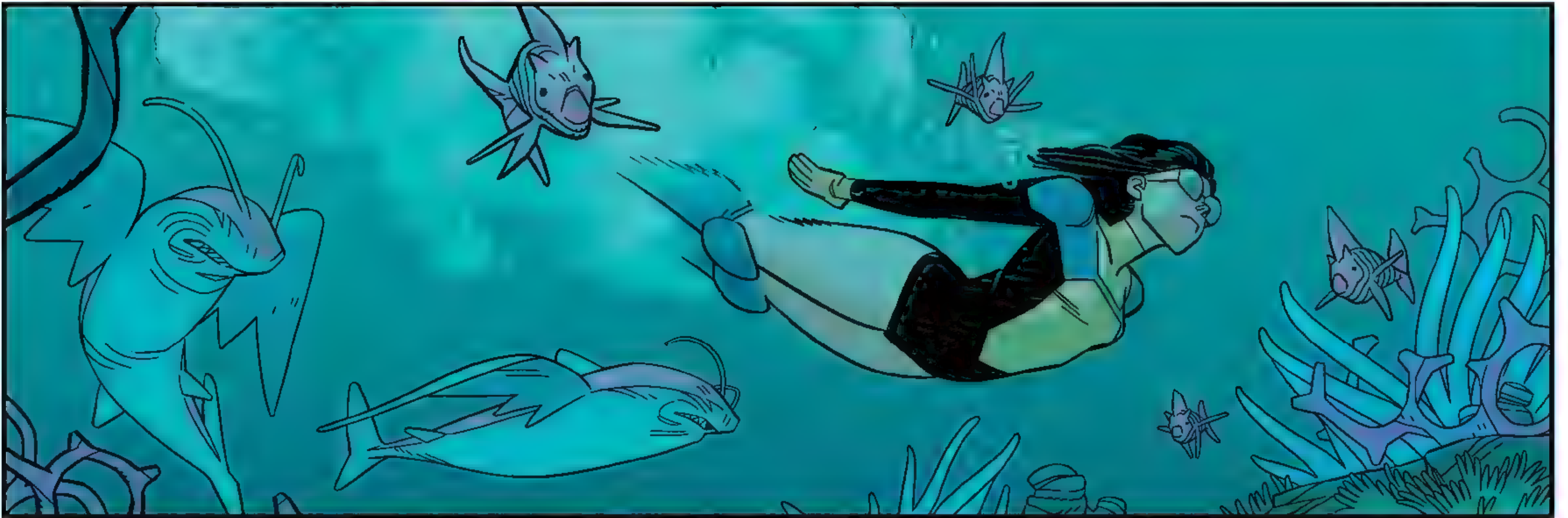


I DIDN'T... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU'D APPLIED TO THE **CONSERVATION** ORDER.

I SENT IN MY APPLICATION UNDER A **FAKE** NAME. I DIDN'T WANT ANY FAVORITISM BECAUSE OF WHO MY FATHER IS.

I'M SO **EXCITED**! ONCE I'VE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM, I'LL BE TRAVELING FROM PLANET TO PLANET, MAKING SURE WHATEVER SOLAR COLLECTORS OR OCEAN TURBINES OR FOOD SYNTHESIZERS WE'VE INSTALLED ARE WORKING PROPERLY AND IMPROVING LIVES.

AND I CAN WEAR WHATEVER I WANT!







MANY ASK ME WHY I HAVE BROKEN WITH TRADITION AND NOT WORN A CEREMONIAL VILTRUMITE MUSTACHE.



TO ME, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SIGN OF OUR HOME WORLD, OF THE PLANET VILTRUM.

I AM NOT FROM VILTRUM. I AM FROM EARTH.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, OUR HOME PLANET WAS DESTROYED BY MYSELF, MY FATHER, AND THAEDUS. SOME OF YOU WERE THERE.

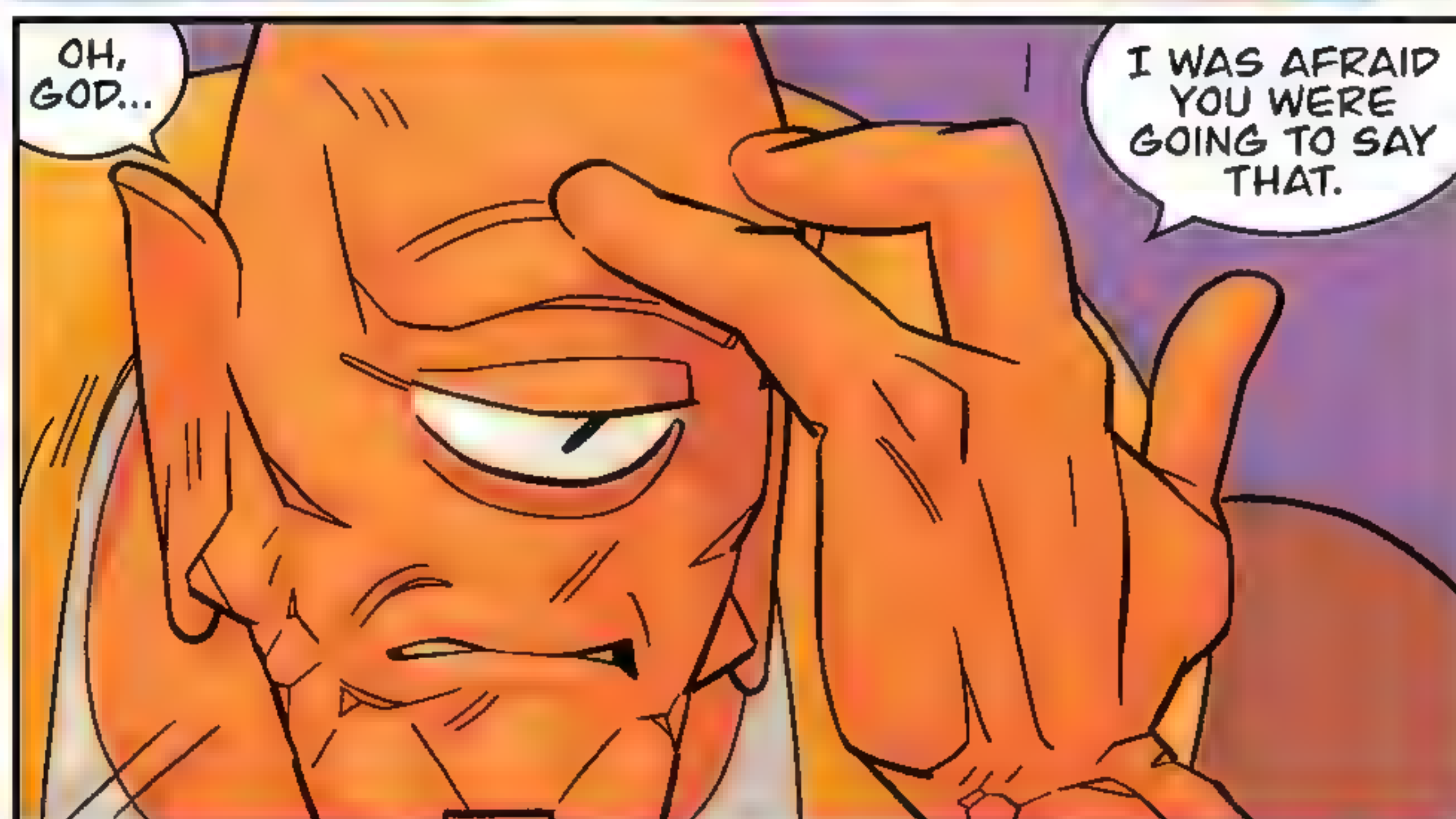
WE WERE NOT ON THE SAME SIDE THAT DAY. MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THAT DAY.

I HOPE THINGS WILL CONTINUE TO CHANGE.

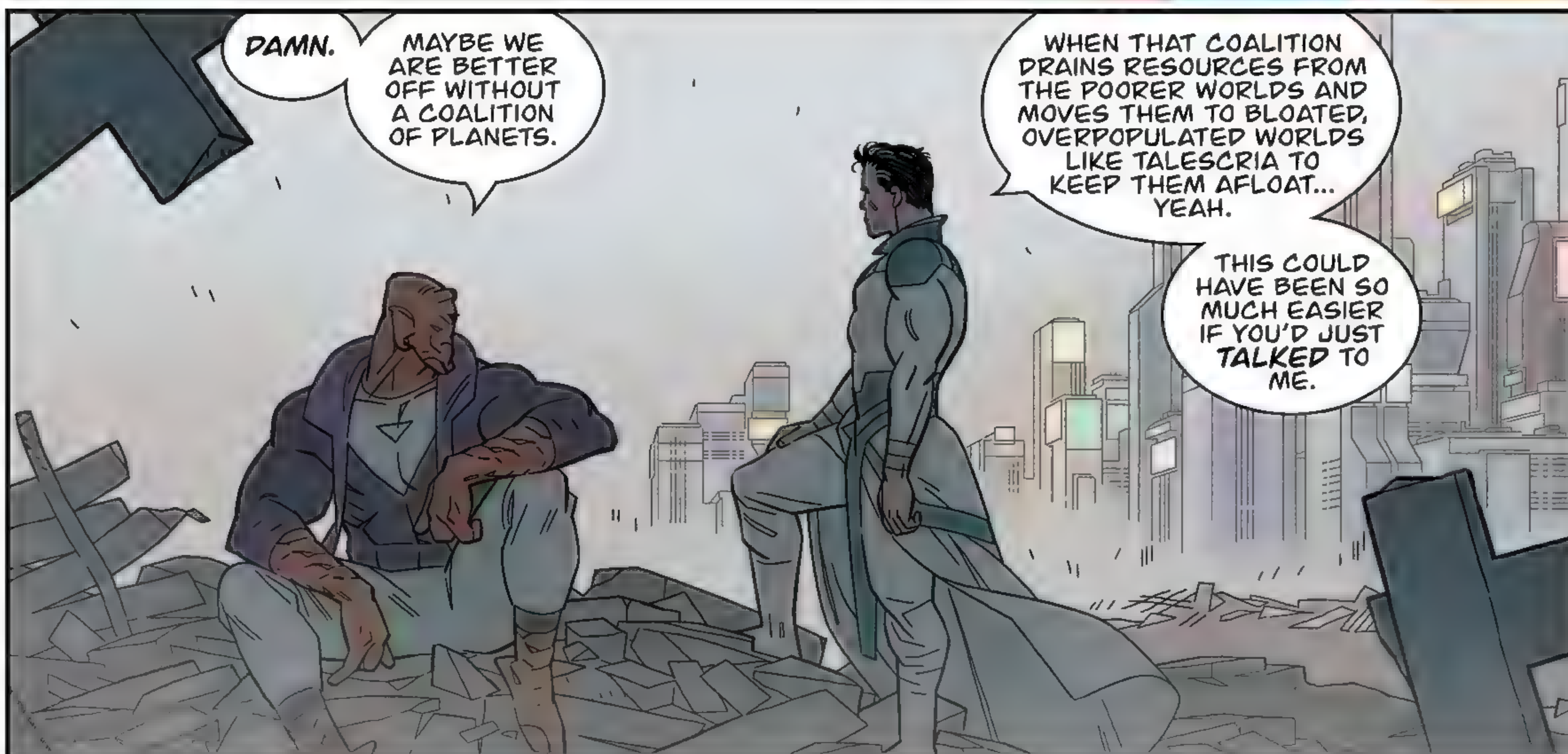
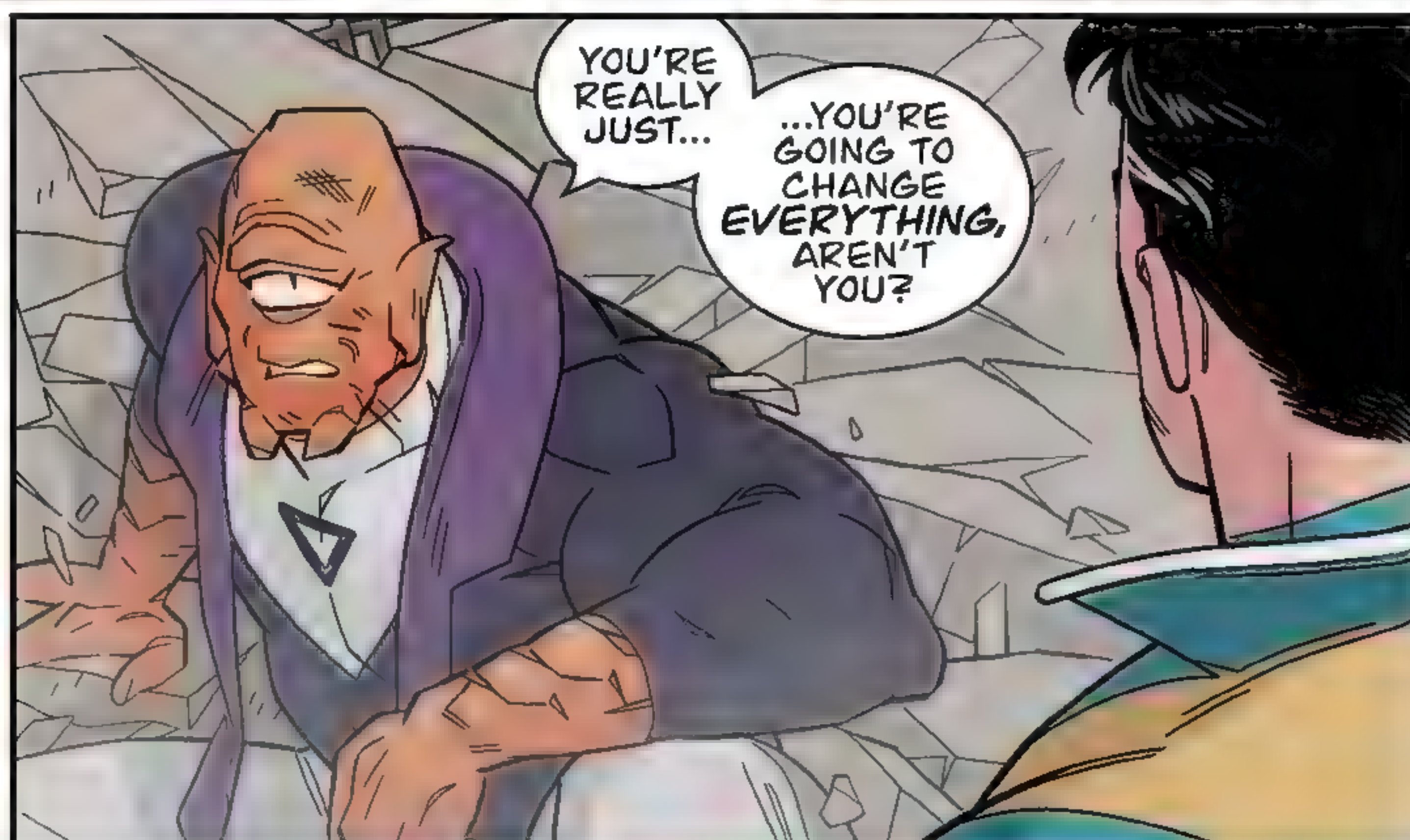


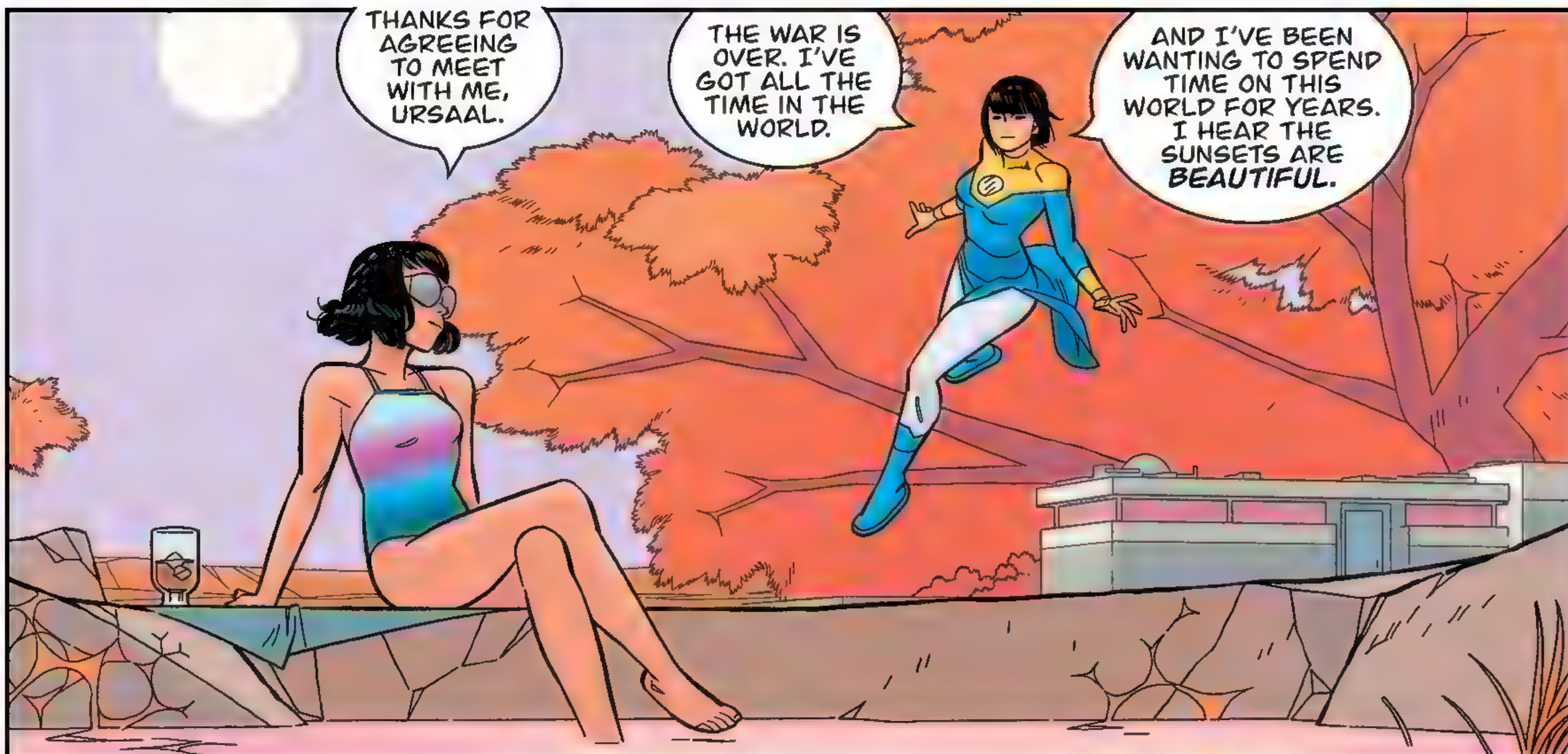
TO THAT END, I LIKE TO THINK THE OLD WAYS DIED WITH VILTRUM. WE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP DOING THINGS AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DONE.

I SHAVE MY FACE IN HONOR OF THAT. IN HONOR OF OUR NEW WAY... A WAY OF PEACE.









THANKS FOR AGREEING TO MEET WITH ME, URSAAAL.

THE WAR IS OVER. I'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.

AND I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SPEND TIME ON THIS WORLD FOR YEARS. I HEAR THE SUNSETS ARE BEAUTIFUL.



YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY AT MY HOUSE. I HAVE ROOM. HOW IS MY FATHER DOING?

YOU SHOULD SPEAK TO HIM YOURSELF, TERRA. HE DOESN'T BLAME YOU FOR SITTING OUT THE WAR.

THAT'S NOT WHO HE IS.



THAT'S MY POINT. A WAR WITH THE COALITION GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I THOUGHT HE STOOD FOR. CHAMPIONS OF PEACE DO NOT START WARS.

THE CONSERVATION ORDER HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT BREAKING AWAY FROM THE EMPIRE OVER THIS...

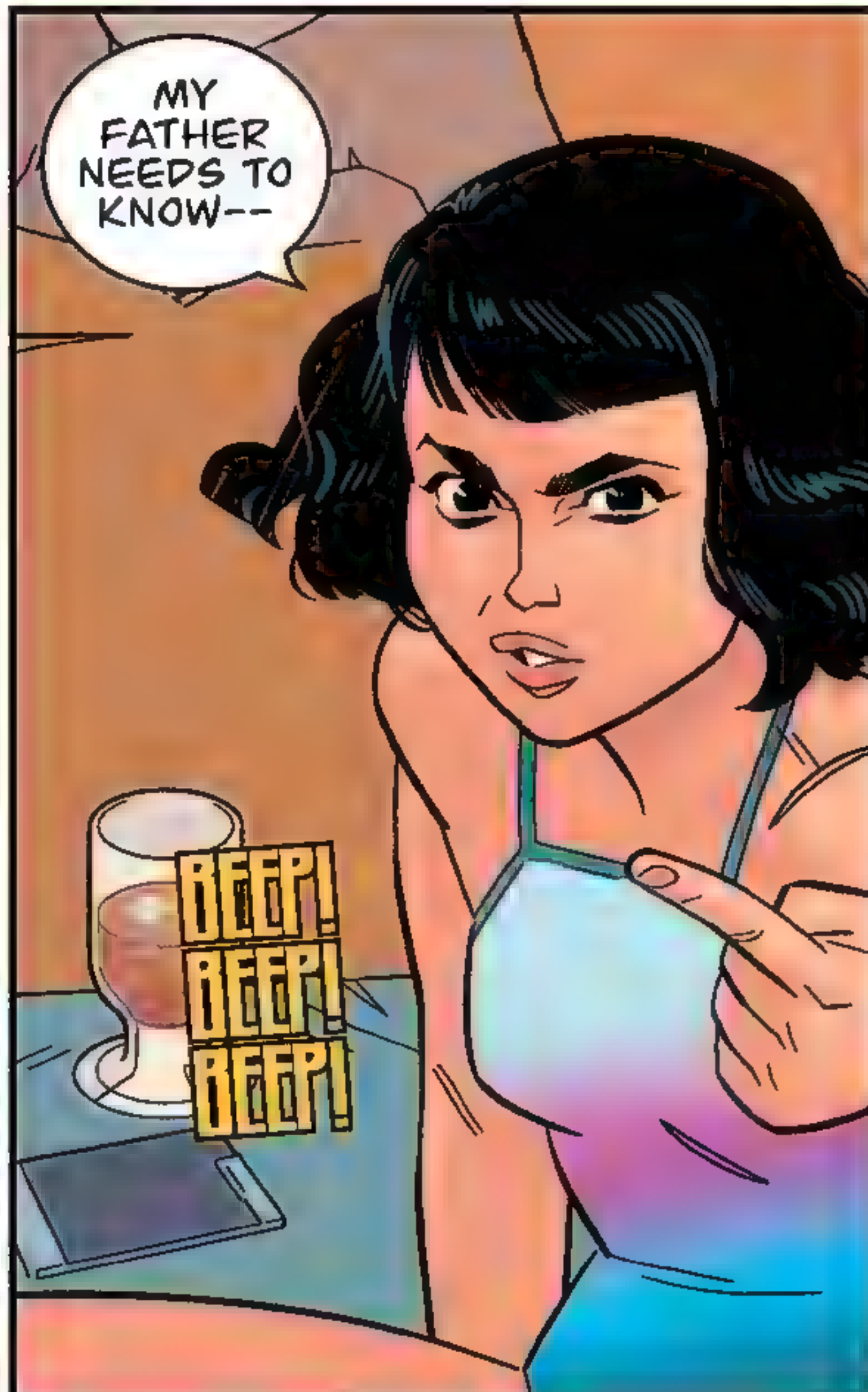


...AND I THINK I'M GOING TO SUPPORT THEM.



WHAT THE COALITION WAS DOING WAS **WRONG**. THEY STARTED THIS WAR, NOT YOUR FATHER. YOU HAVE TO SPEAK TO HIM BEFORE THIS GETS OUT OF HAND. THE ORDER RESPECTS YOU... YOU CAN **STOP** THIS. YOU HAVE TO.

YOU CAN'T ALLOW THE EMPIRE TO FRACTURE OVER THIS.



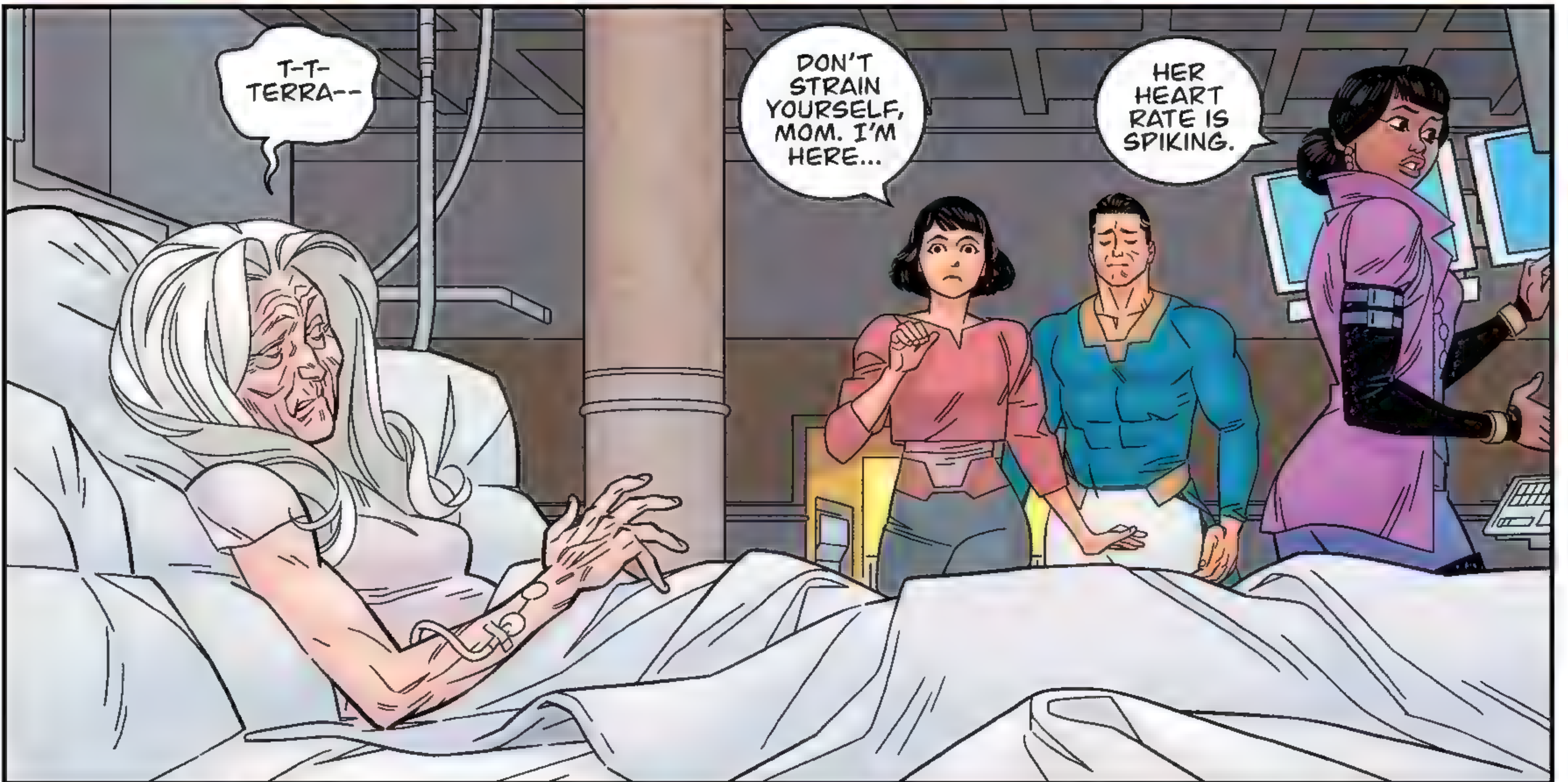
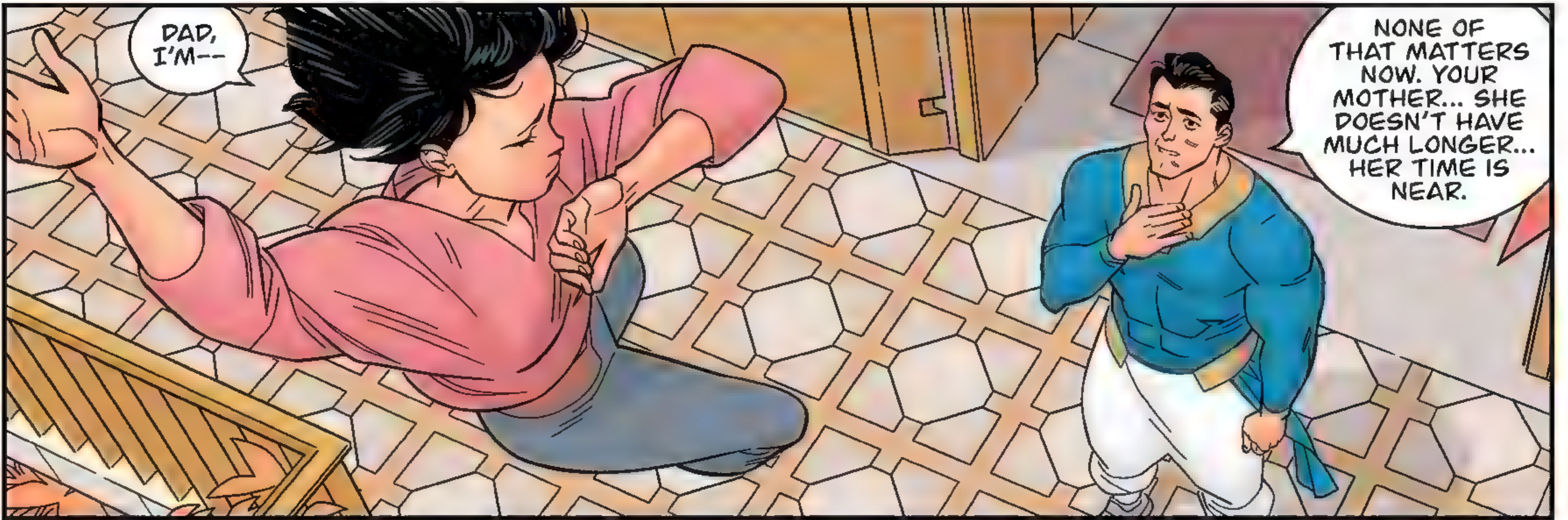
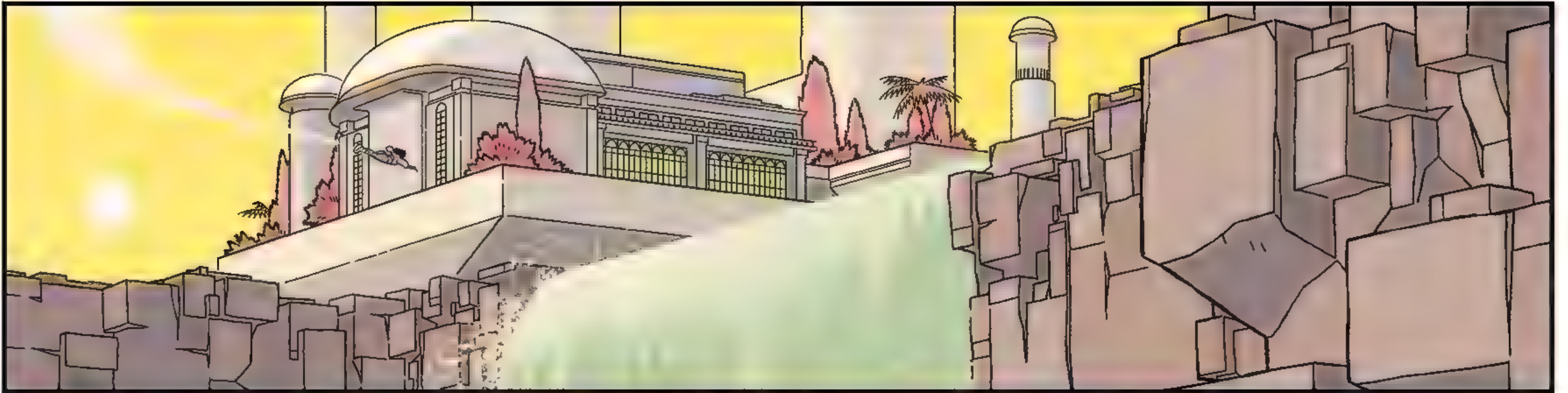
MY FATHER NEEDS TO KNOW--

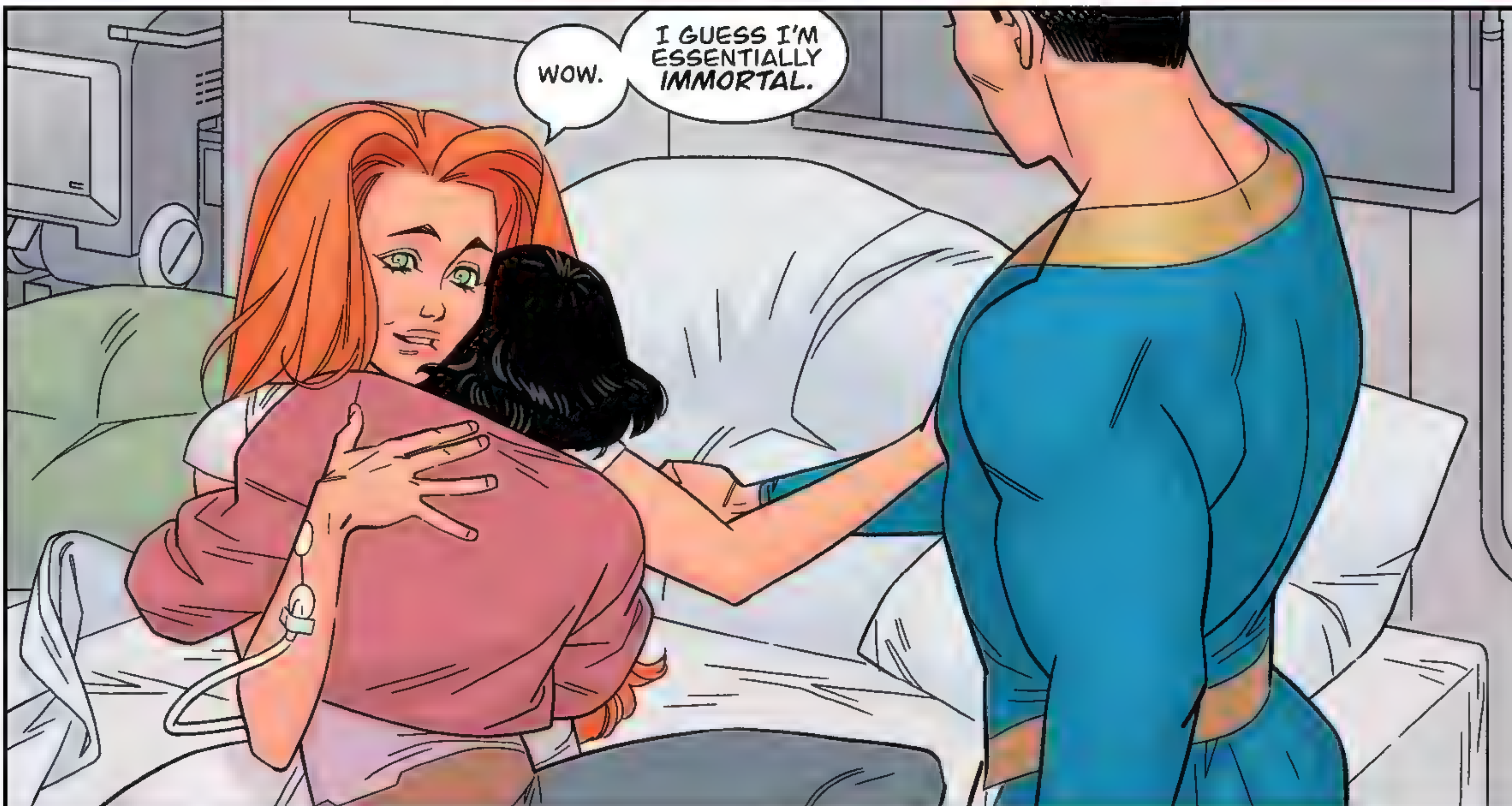
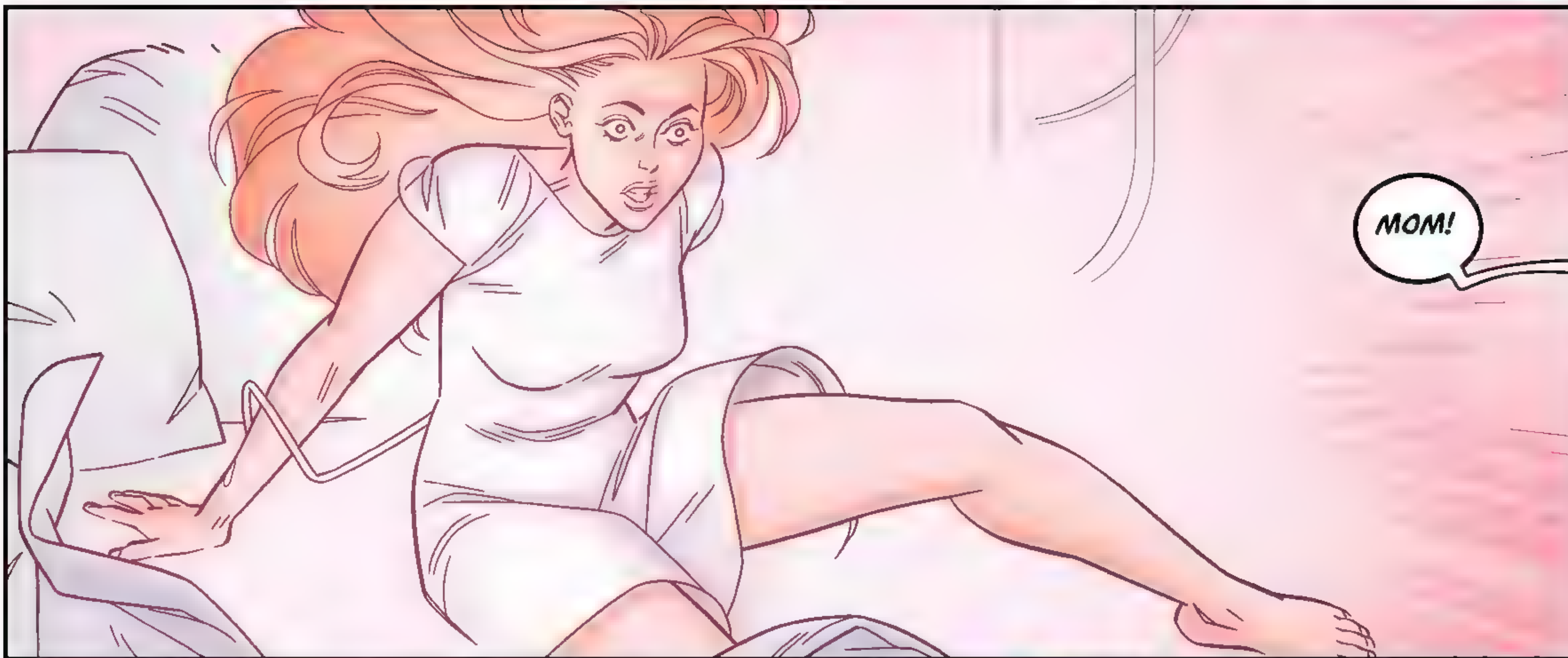
REEP!
REEP!
REEP!

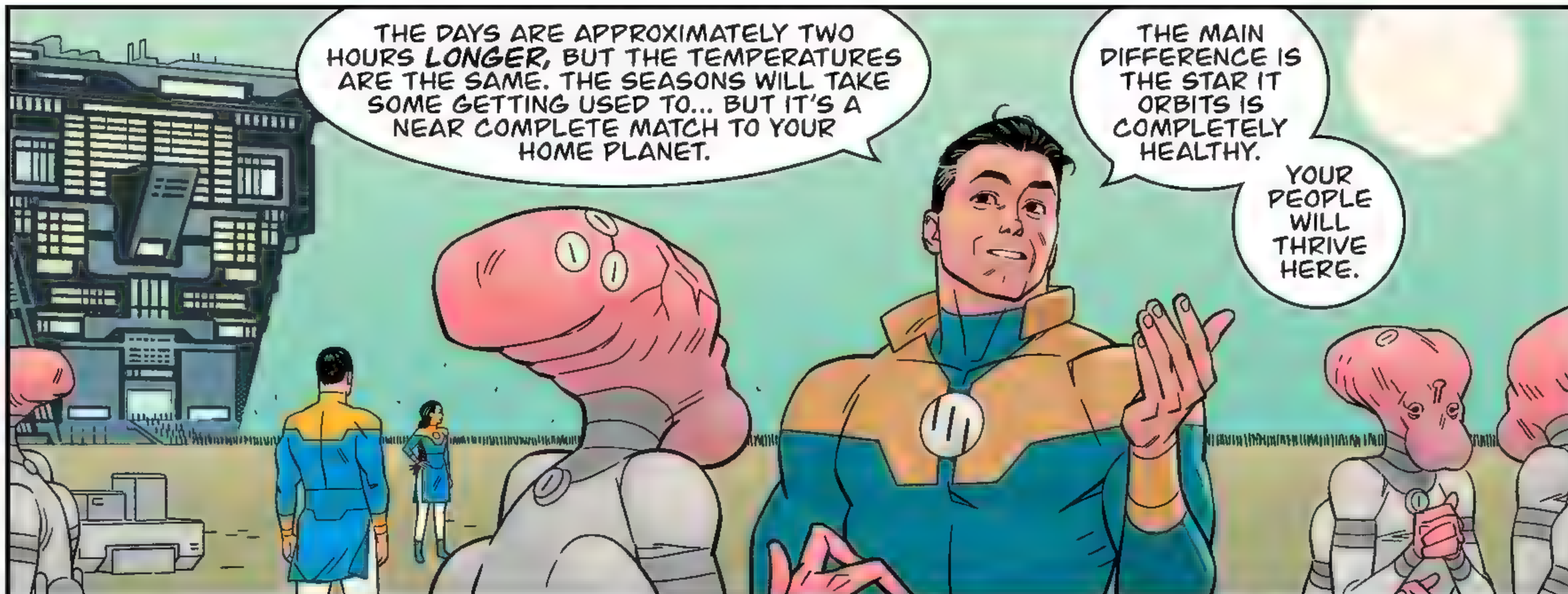
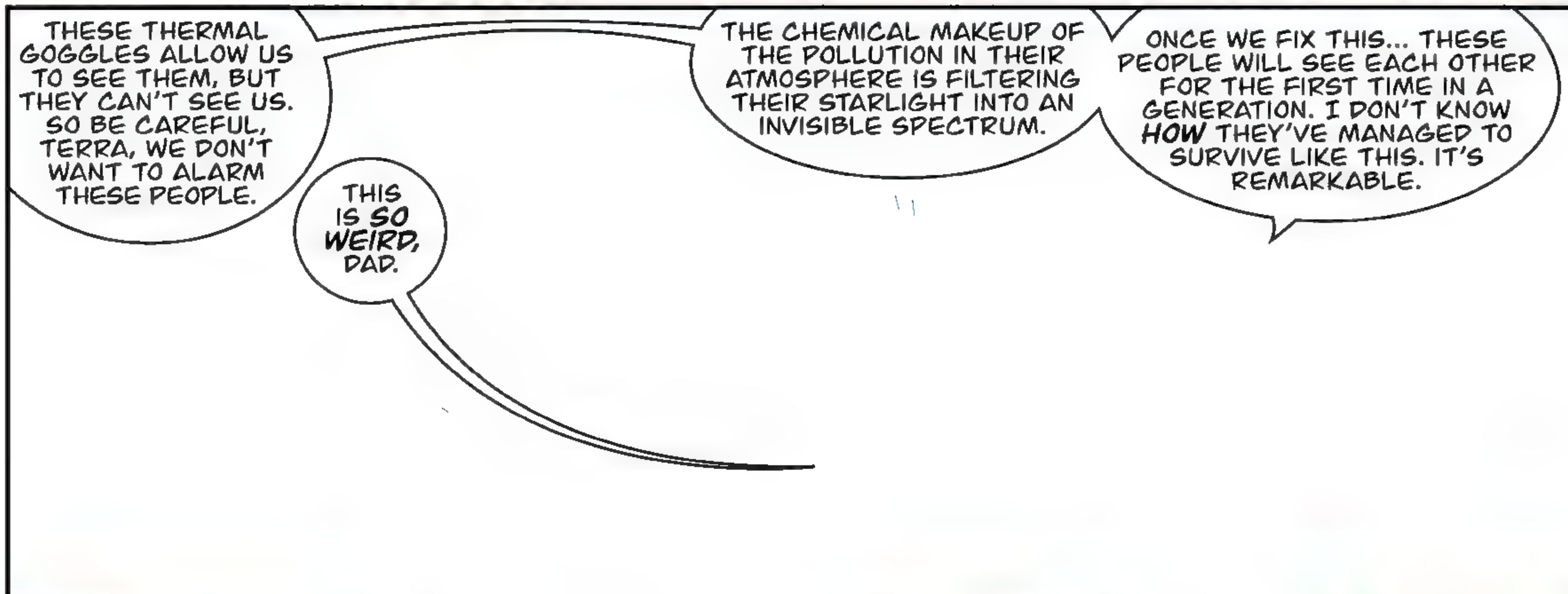
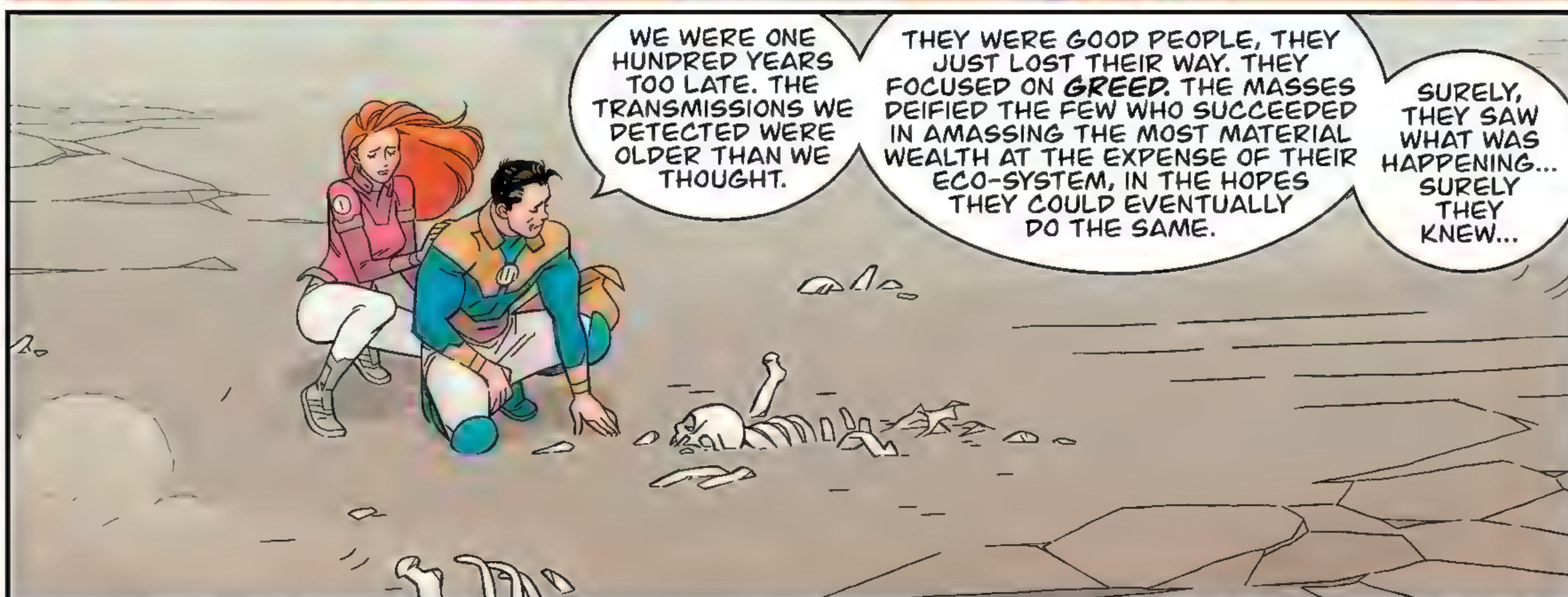


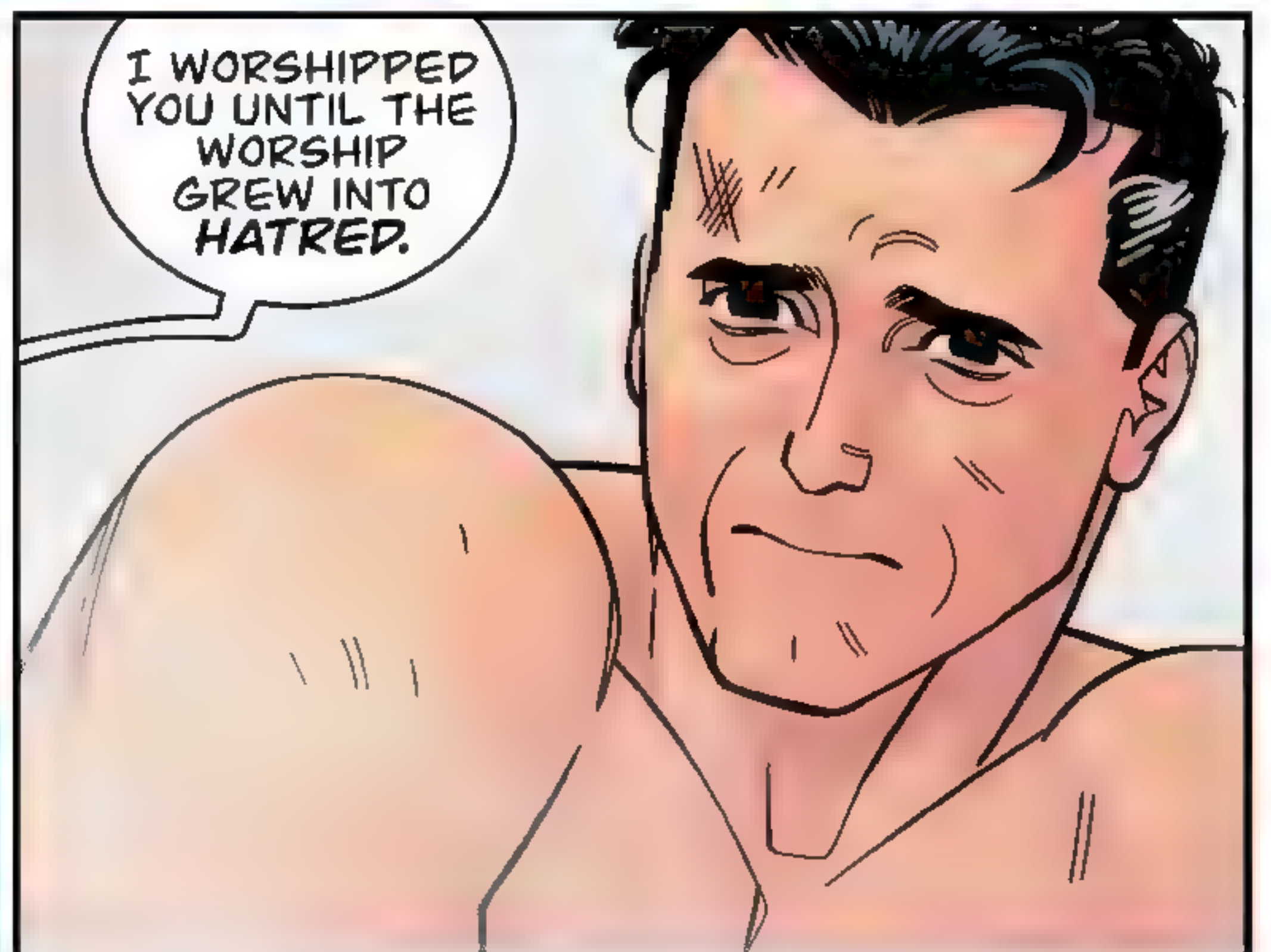
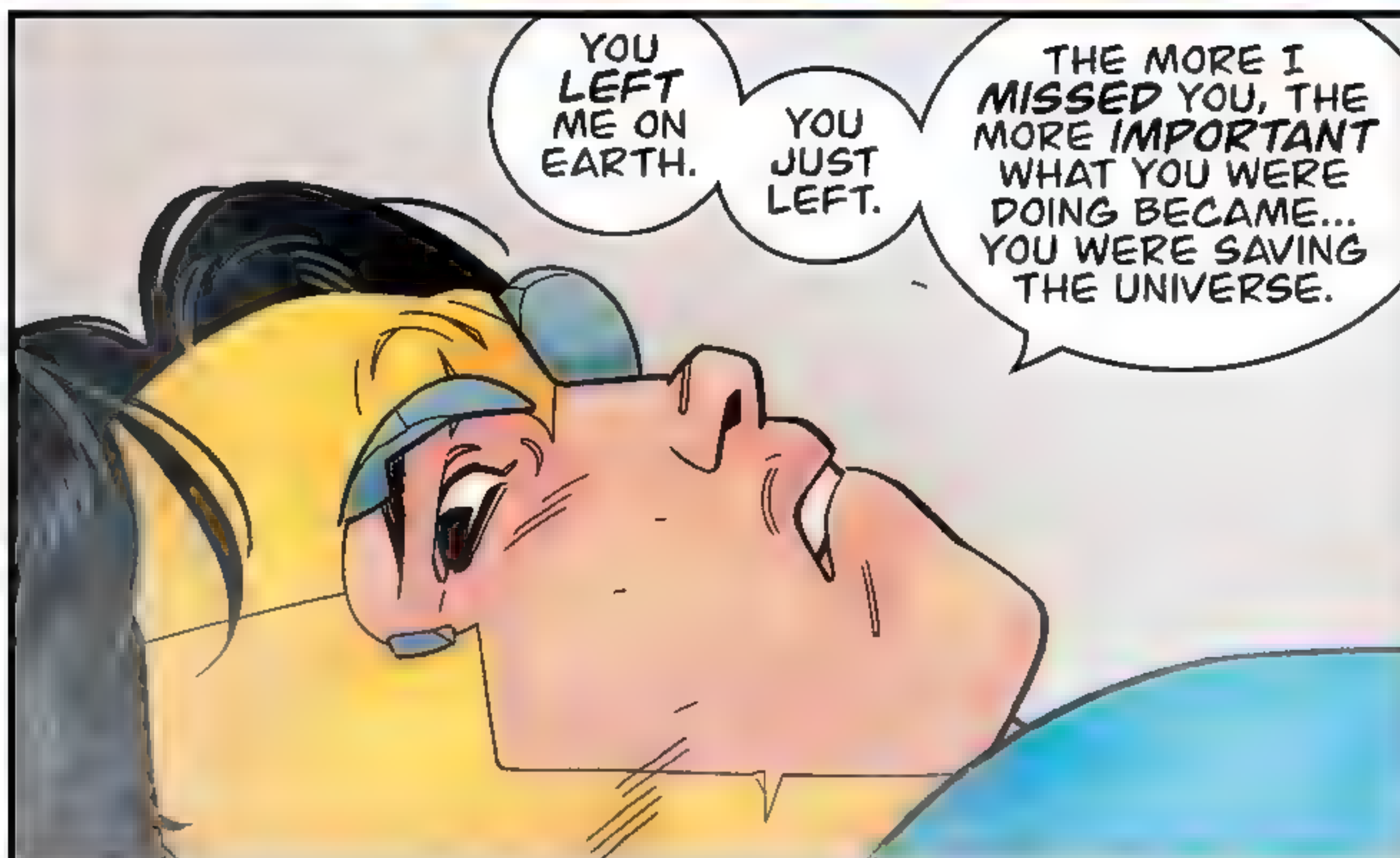
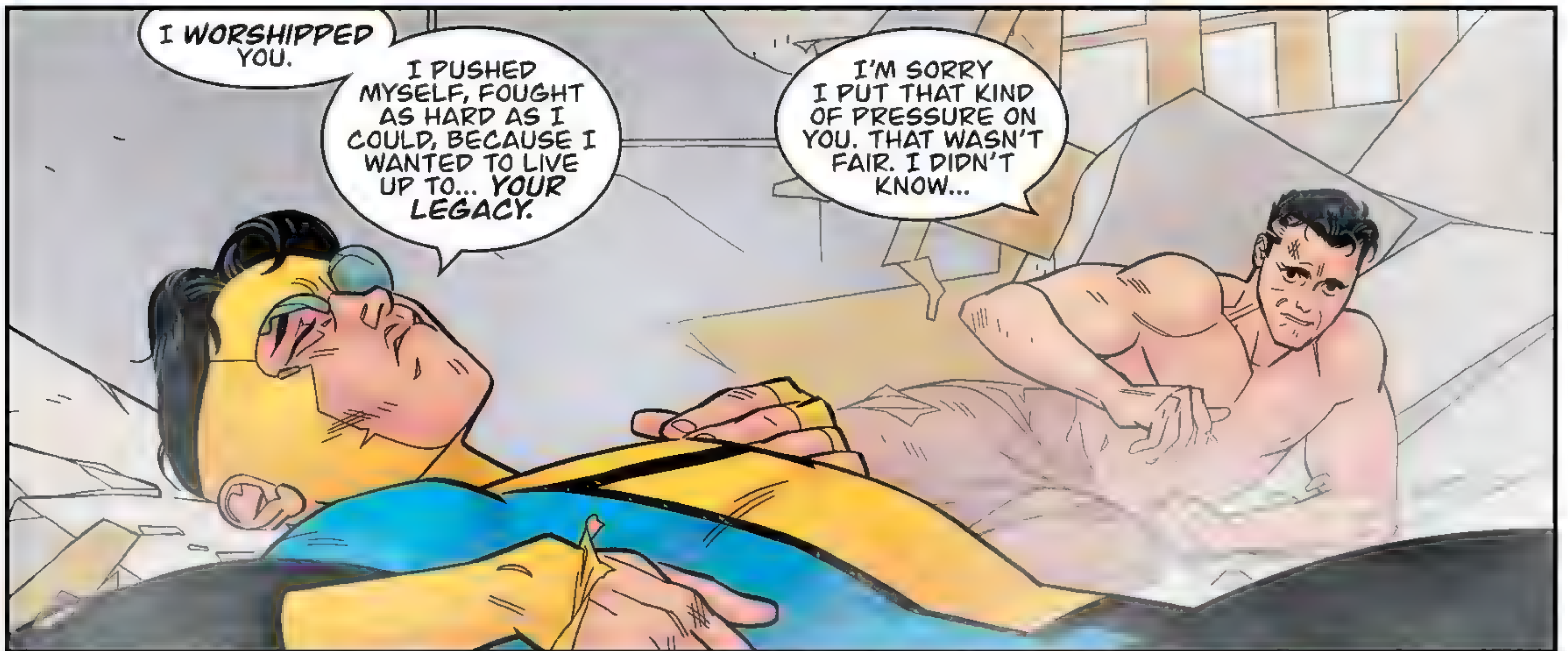
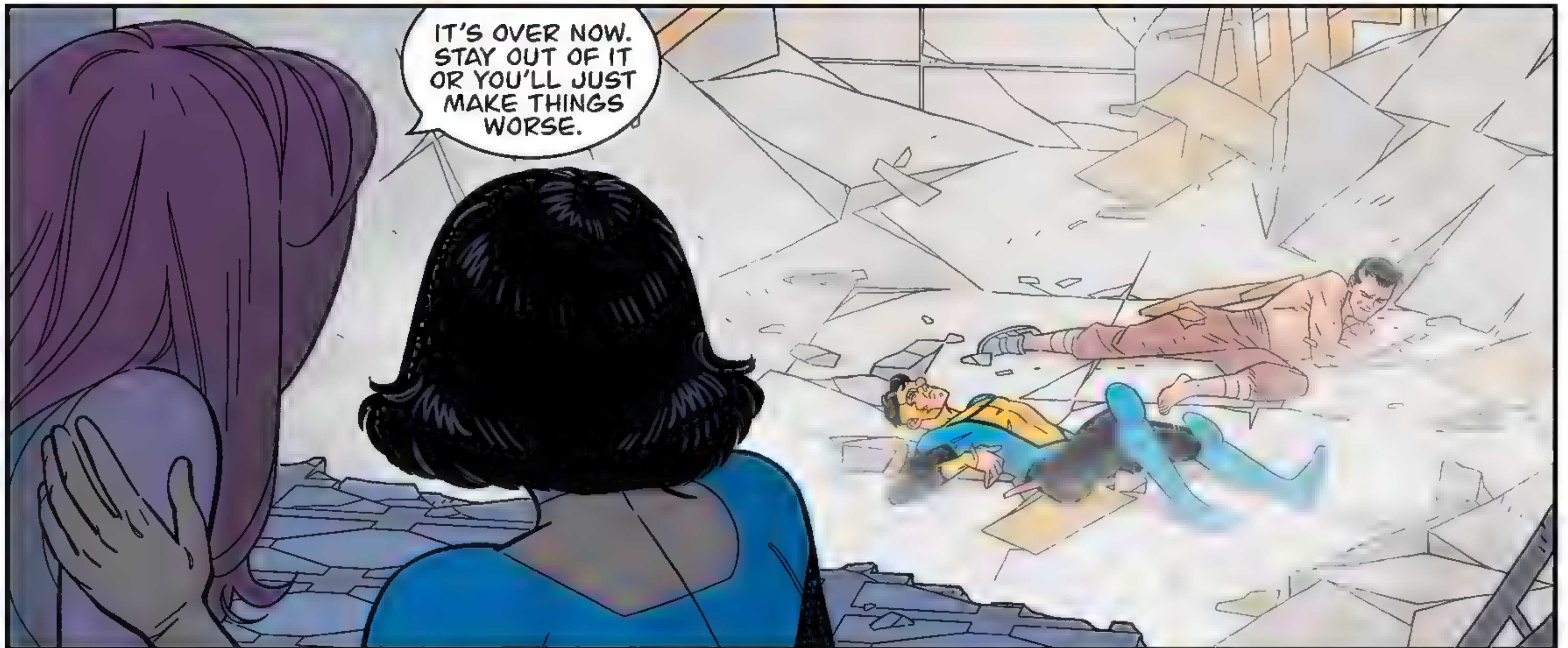
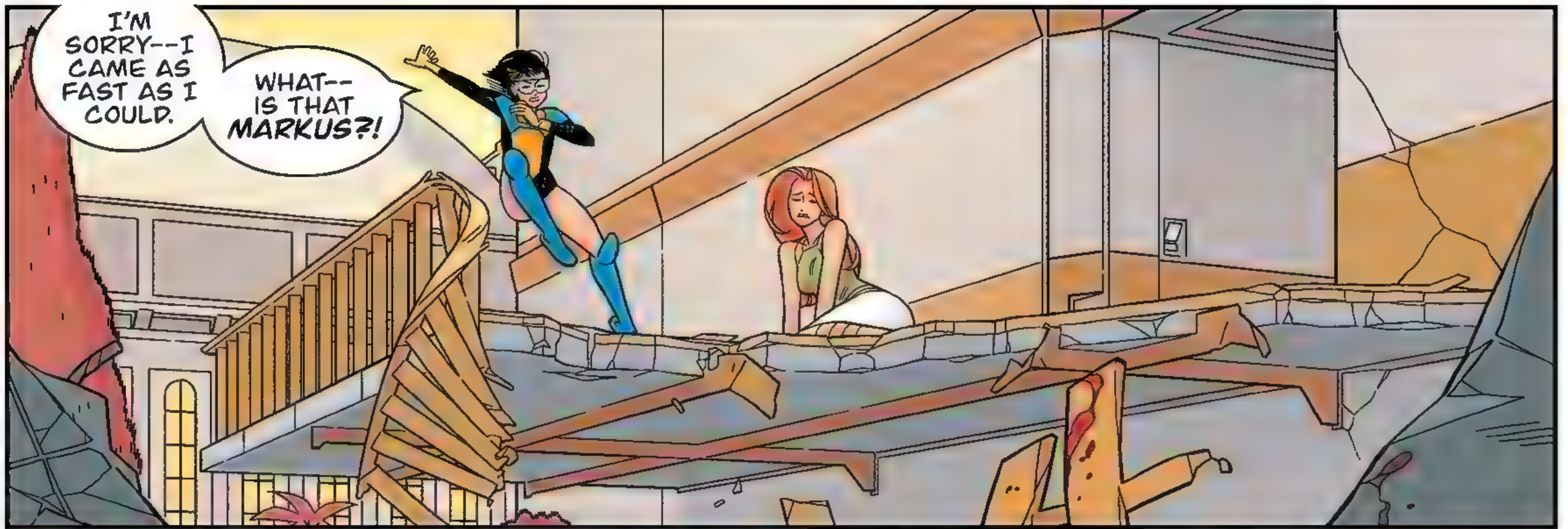
WHAT IS IT?

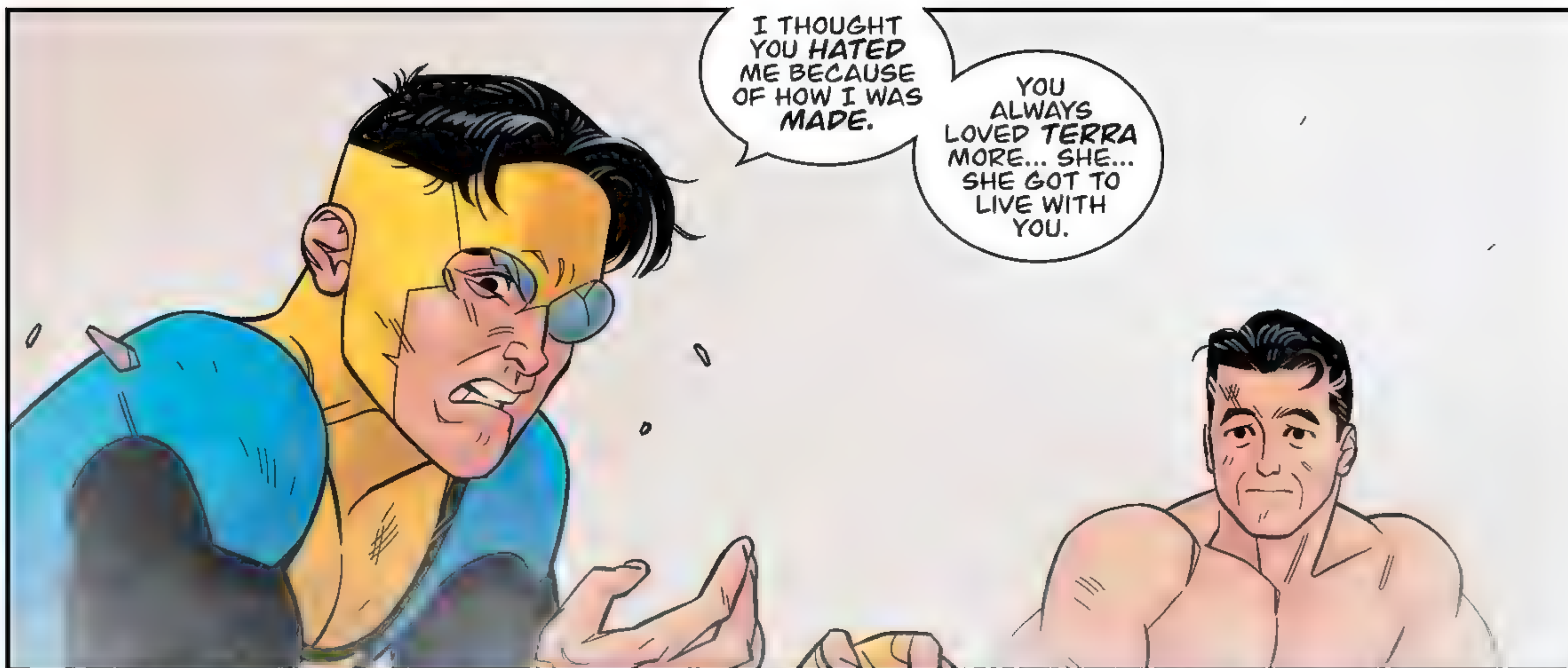
IT'S MY MOTHER...











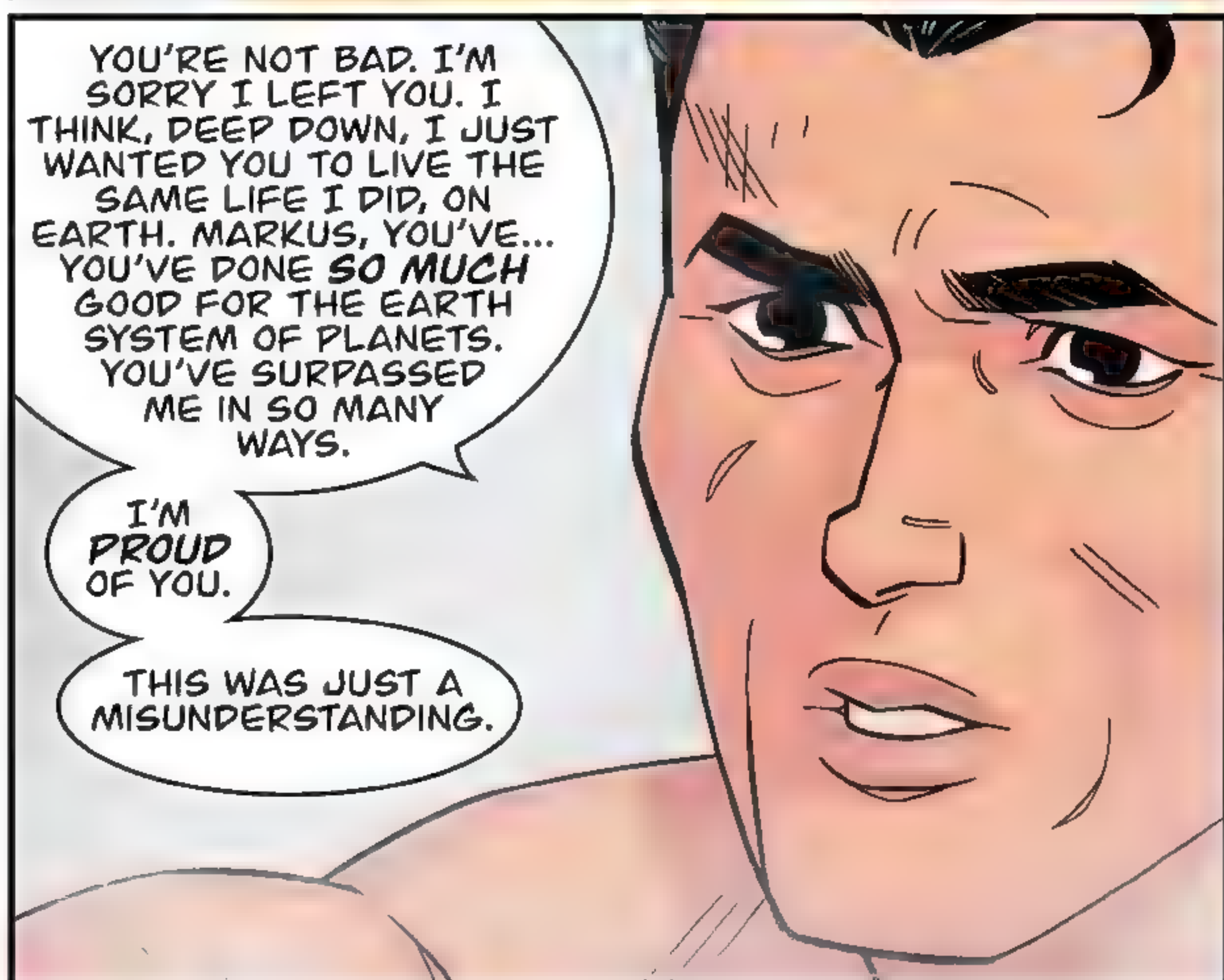
I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME BECAUSE OF HOW I WAS MADE.

YOU ALWAYS LOVED TERRA MORE... SHE... SHE GOT TO LIVE WITH YOU.



I HATED MYSELF... BECAUSE I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. I USED TO THINK... YOU MADE TERRA WITH LOVE... BUT I WAS MADE WITH HATE.

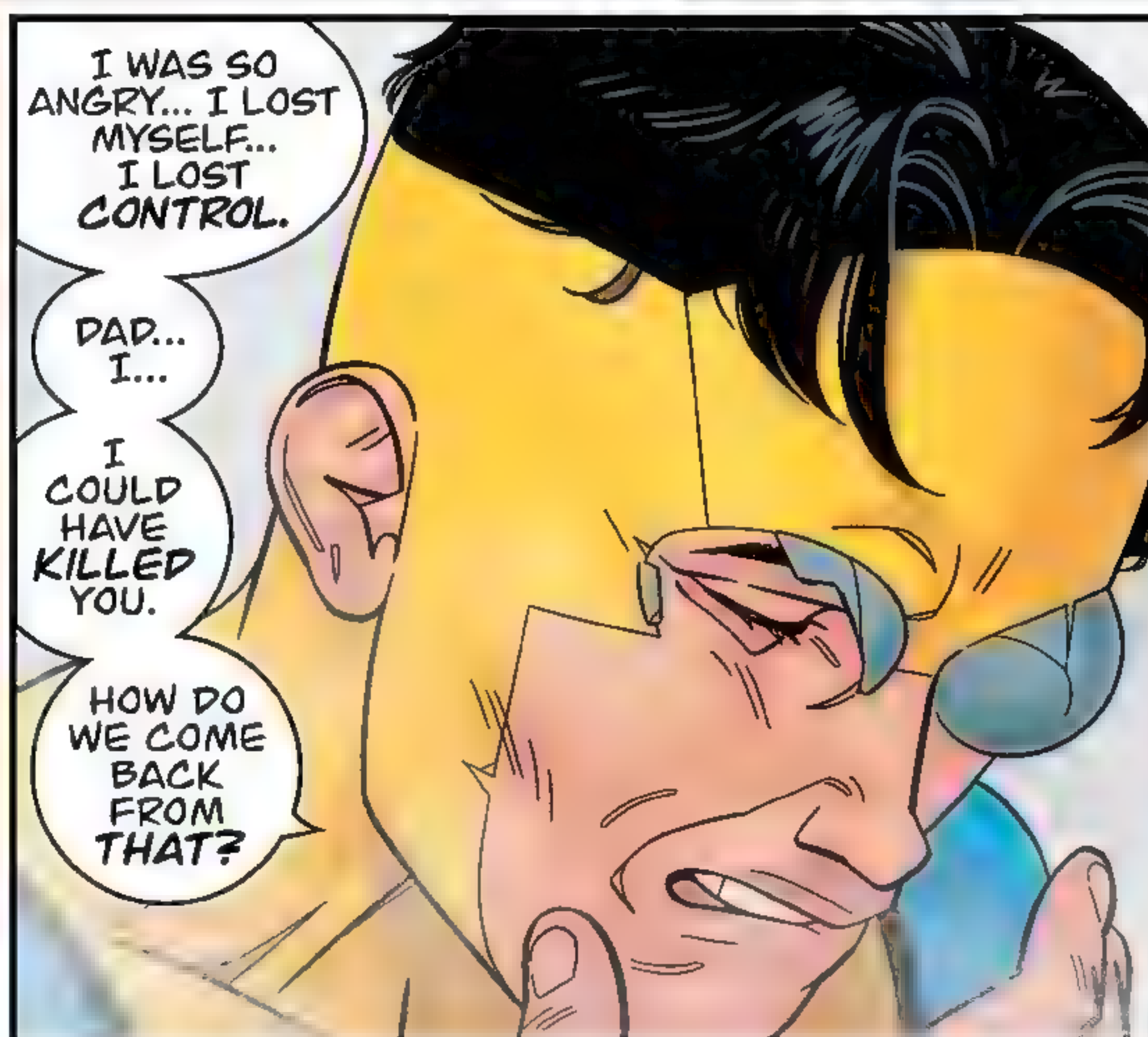
MY MOTHER... SHE... SHE DOOMED ME TO BE THIS... TO BE LESS... TO BE... BAD.



YOU'RE NOT BAD. I'M SORRY I LEFT YOU. I THINK, DEEP DOWN, I JUST WANTED YOU TO LIVE THE SAME LIFE I DID, ON EARTH. MARKUS, YOU'VE... YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH GOOD FOR THE EARTH SYSTEM OF PLANETS. YOU'VE SURPASSED ME IN SO MANY WAYS.

I'M PROUD OF YOU.

THIS WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING.

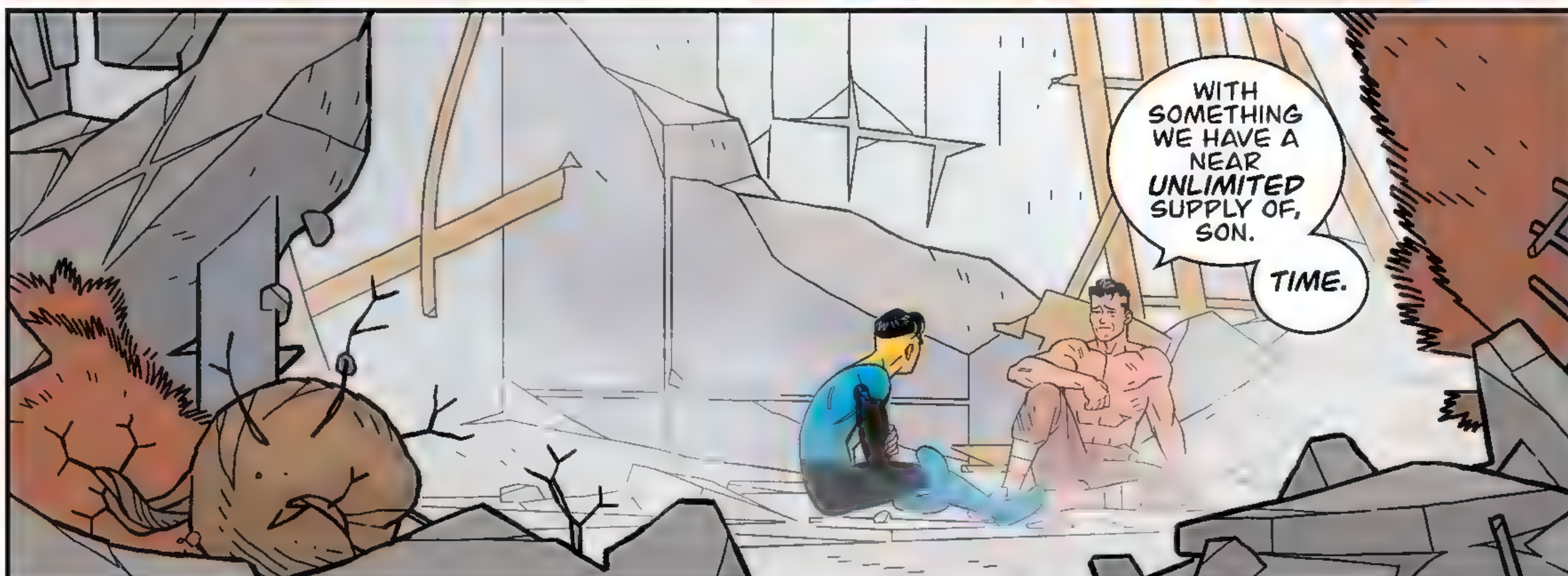


I WAS SO ANGRY... I LOST MYSELF... I LOST CONTROL.

DAD... I...

I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU.

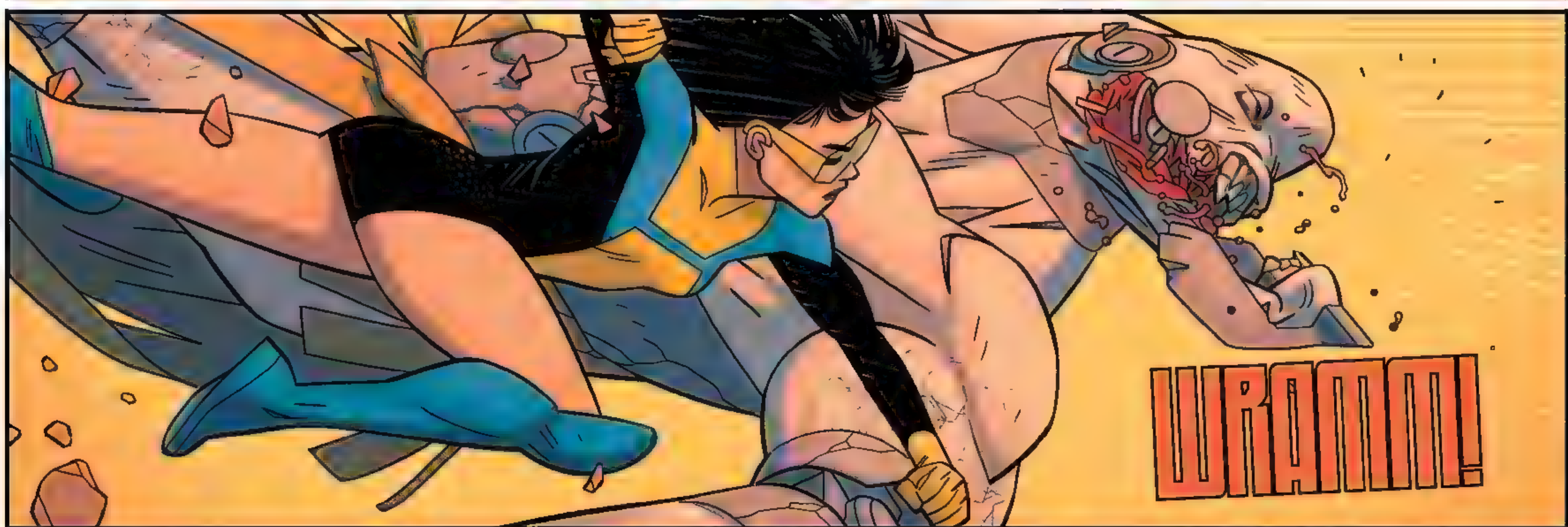
HOW DO WE COME BACK FROM THAT?

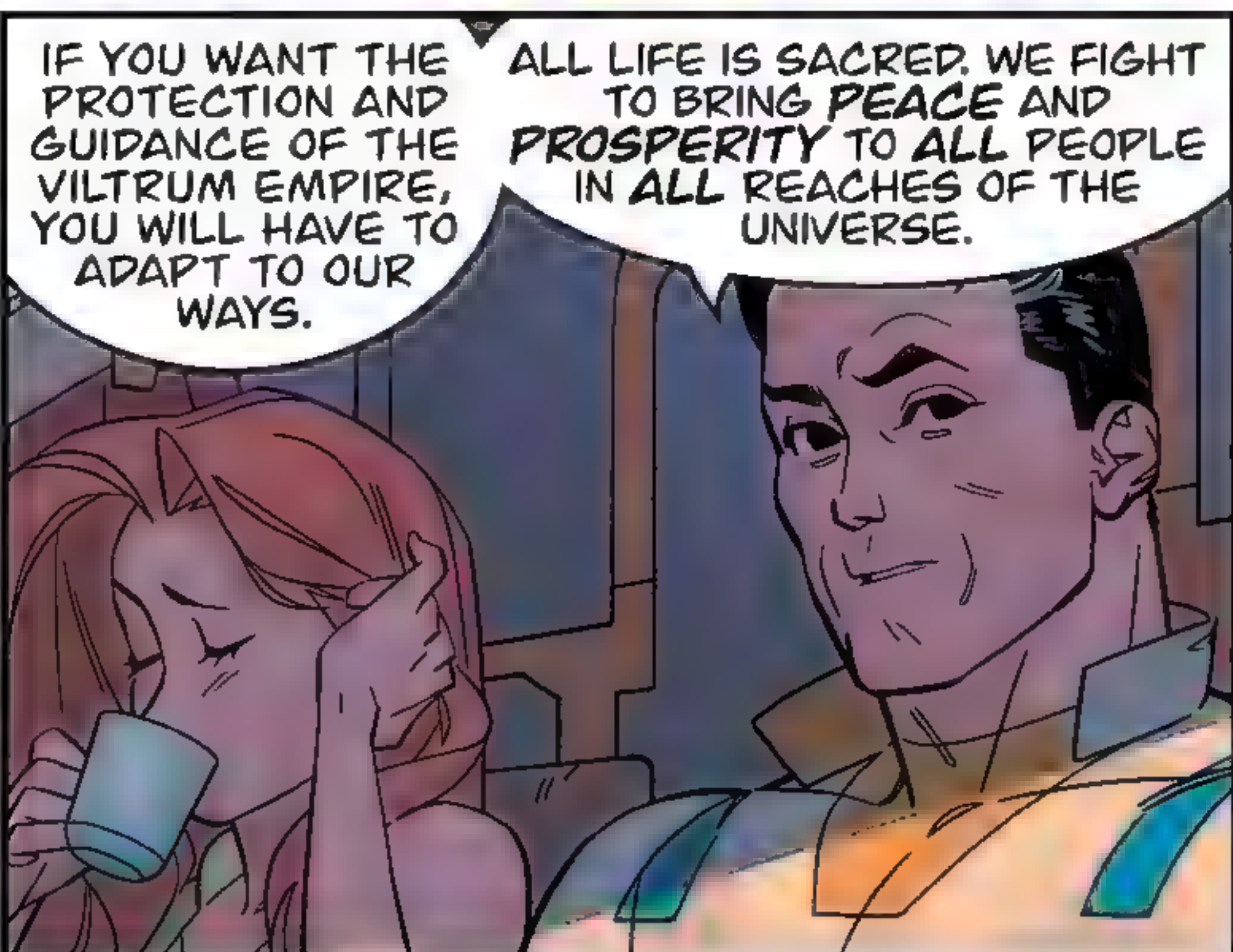


WITH SOMETHING WE HAVE A NEAR UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF, SON.

TIME.











ALL?

ALL OF YOU HAVE THIS STRENGTH? HOW CAN THAT BE? WITH SUCH POWER, YOU COULD CONQUER THE KNOWN UNIVERSE WITH EASE.

YOU COULD RULE ALL THAT LIVE... AND YET... NOT ONLY HAVE YOU NOT DONE THIS, BUT YOU HAVE TREATED US AS **EQUALS** WHEN YOU COULD HAVE SIMPLY CONQUERED US AND **COMMANDED** US TO DO AS YOU WISH.



I'M SORRY FOR THE DISRESPECT I HAVE SHOWN YOU. PLEASE... PLEASE DO NOT KILL MY FAMILY, SPARE THEM...

...KILL ONLY ME.

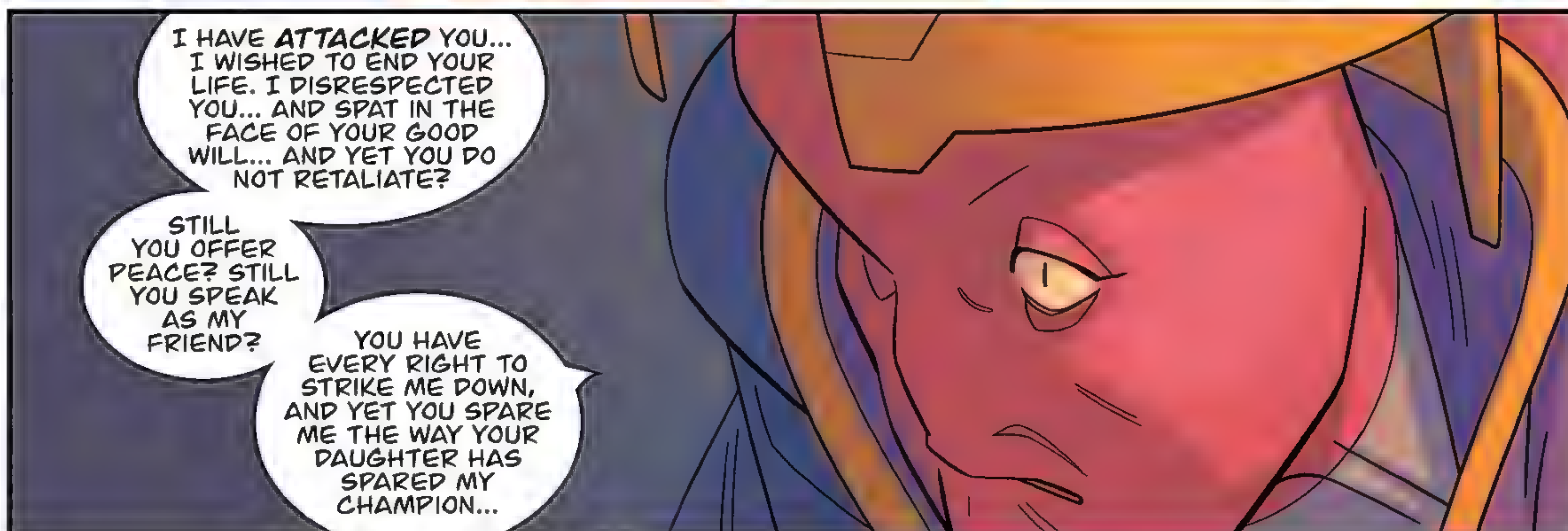
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE. **STAND**. THIS IS UNNECESSARY. I AM NOT GOING TO KILL YOU.



AGES AGO, MY PEOPLE WERE CONQUERORS. OUR RAGE AND FURY DROVE US TO ENSLAVE PLANET AFTER PLANET AS WE BUILT AN EMPIRE OF FEAR AND MISERY.

BUT WE GOT BETTER. WE TURNED AWAY FROM OUR RAGE AND SET OUT TO USE OUR STRENGTH FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

WE ONLY WISH TO WORK TOGETHER WITH YOU TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE.



I HAVE **ATTACKED** YOU... I WISHED TO END YOUR LIFE. I DISRESPECTED YOU... AND SPAT IN THE FACE OF YOUR GOOD WILL... AND YET YOU DO NOT RETALIATE?

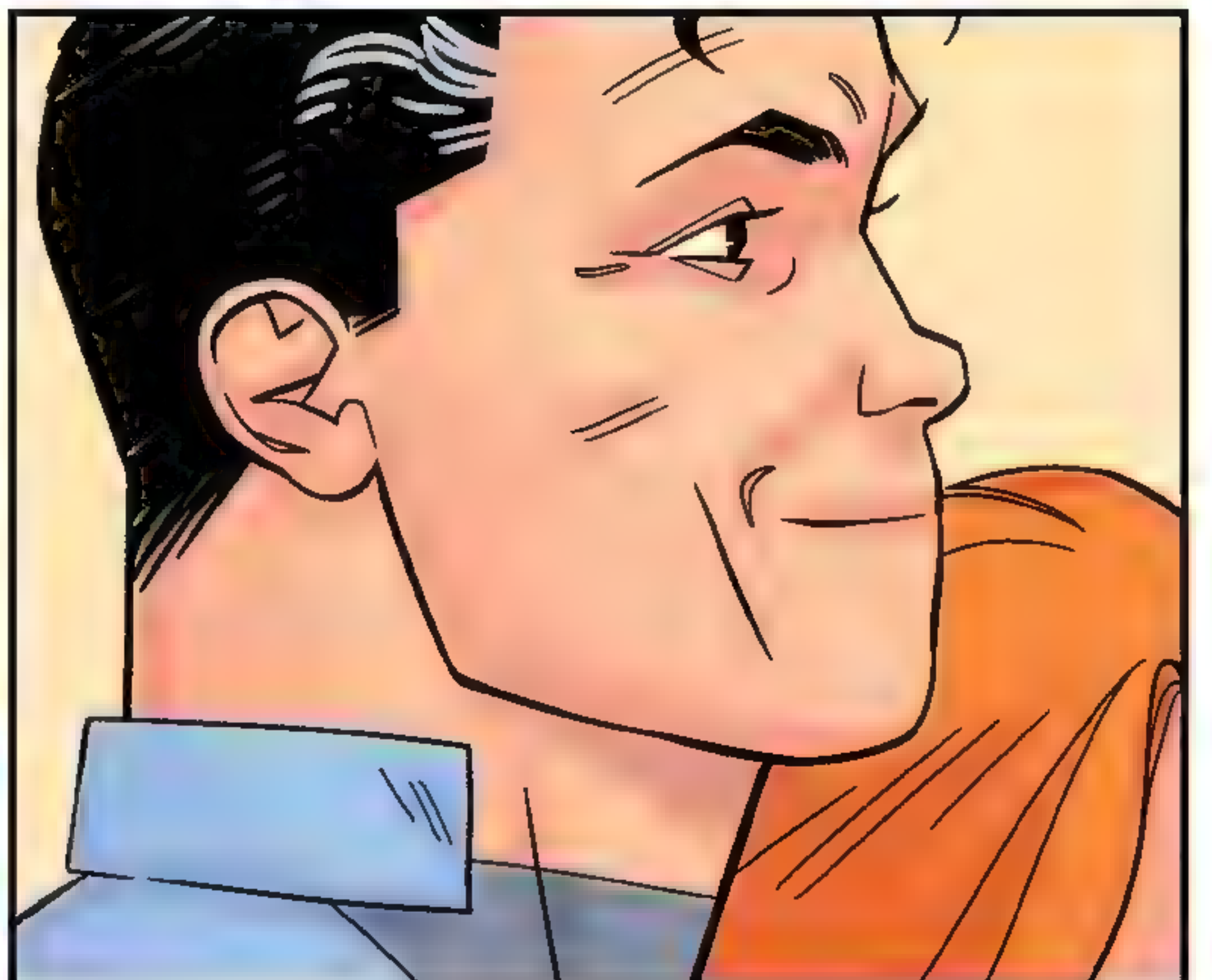
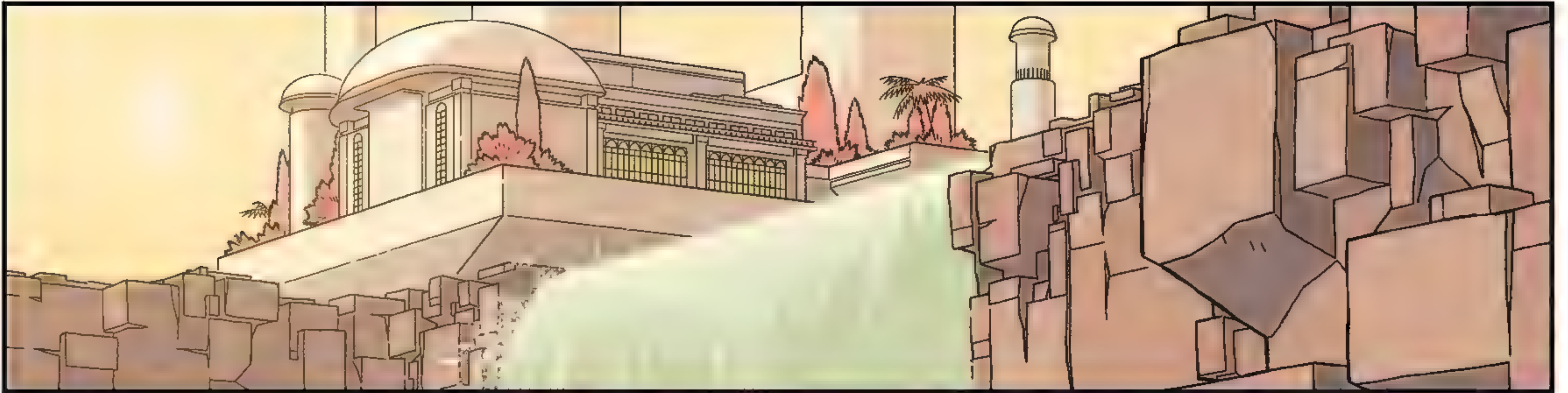
STILL YOU OFFER PEACE? STILL YOU SPEAK AS MY FRIEND?

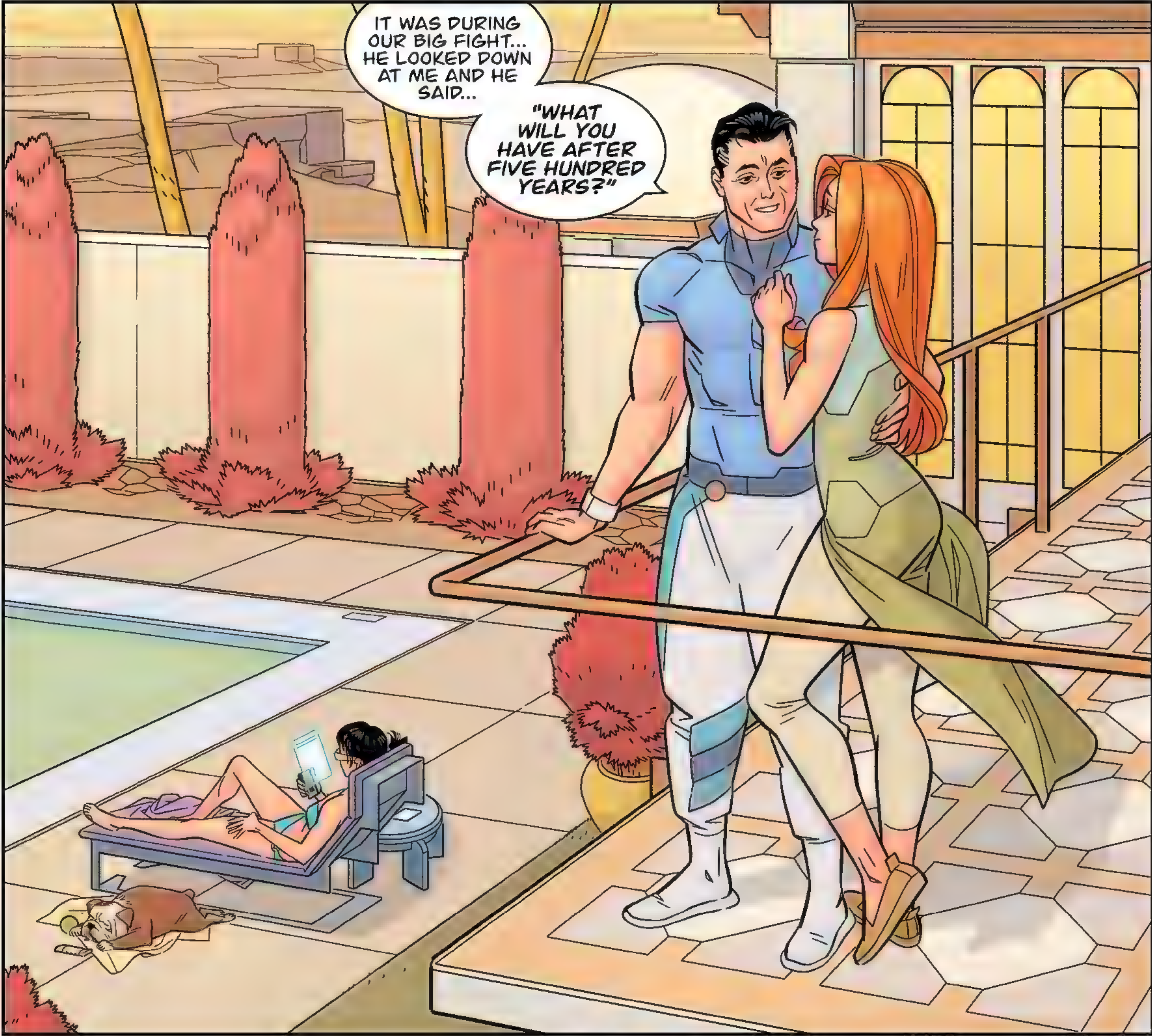
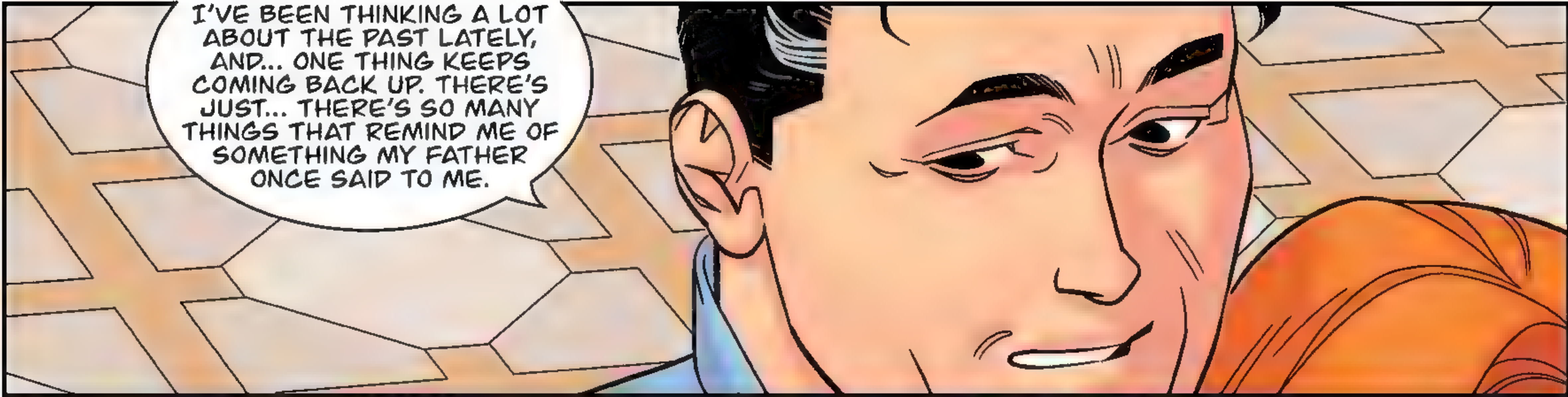
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO STRIKE ME DOWN, AND YET YOU SPARE ME THE WAY YOUR DAUGHTER HAS SPARED MY CHAMPION...

YES.

THAT
IS THE
VILTRUMITE
WAY.









SKETCHBOOK



RYAN OTTLEY: *It's over... it's actually all done. Not sure what to say at the end here. I kinda don't feel like much needs to be said other than thank you. I will miss this book and everyone I've worked with and you readers immensely. Thanks for being a part of this, I'm so happy there are fans who took a chance on an independent superhero book, it's kinda rare for that to even exist. I'm just glad I'm able to draw for a living, and that there are people out there who are passionate about reading our comics! Thank you to Robert for giving me a chance fourteen years ago, even though I wasn't all that qualified. Maybe he saw my potential. Or maybe his eye for talent was broken that day. Heh.*

I'll always be proud of this book. We made something awesome.

I'll just let the art speak for itself, feels like I've talked about my art so much in the back of these books that I don't know what else I can say. There's a few process shots of layouts to pencils to inks, there are a few pencil-only examples, and then there are commissions I've done at conventions. So yeah, I'll let the art do the talking. Thank you! See you next time!









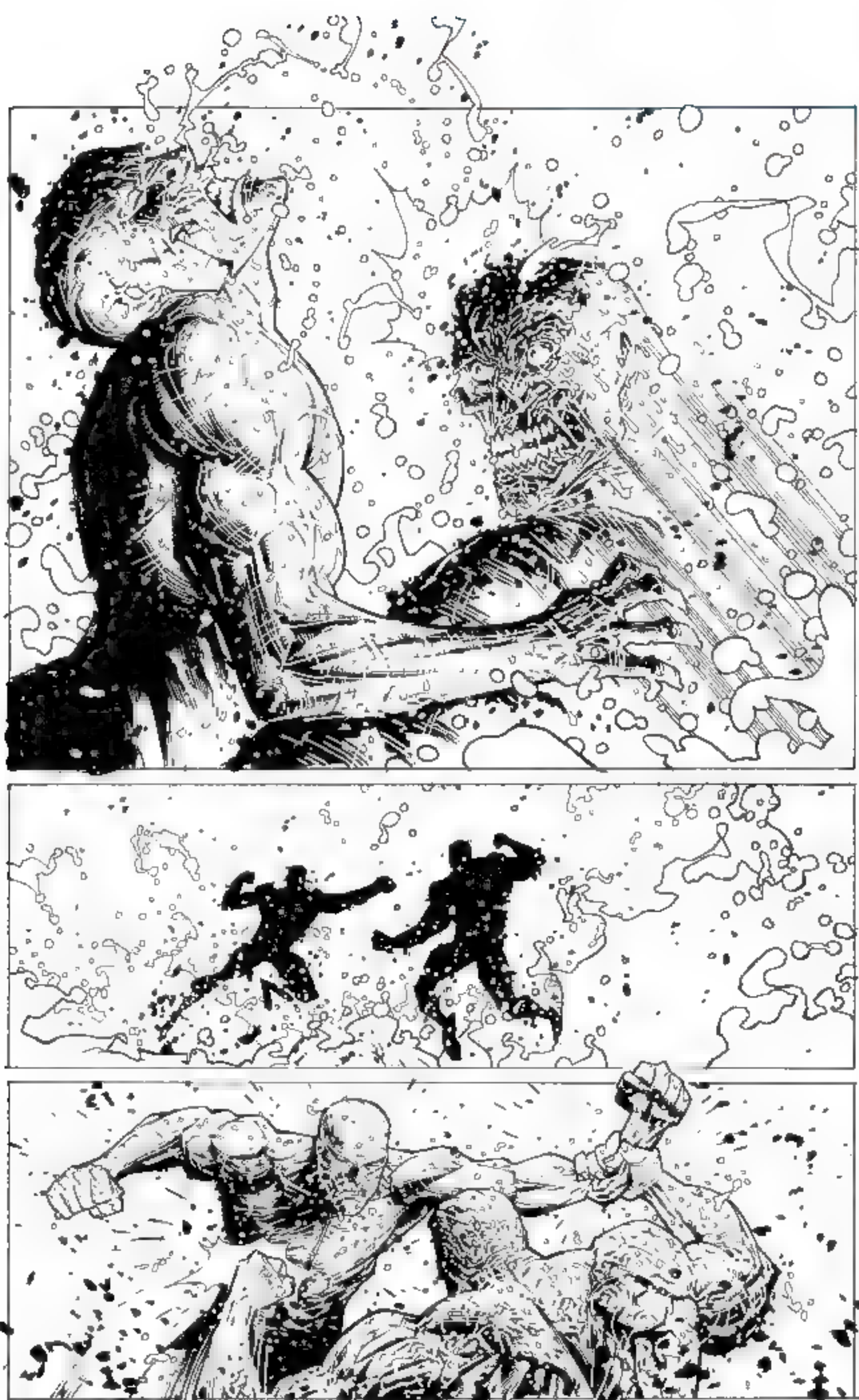


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INVINCIBLE

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John





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COMICS BOOK INVINCIBLE

ILLUSTRATED QUALITY PAPER FULL BLEED COMIC PAGES

ISSUE # 142

PAGES 14-15

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COMICS BOOK

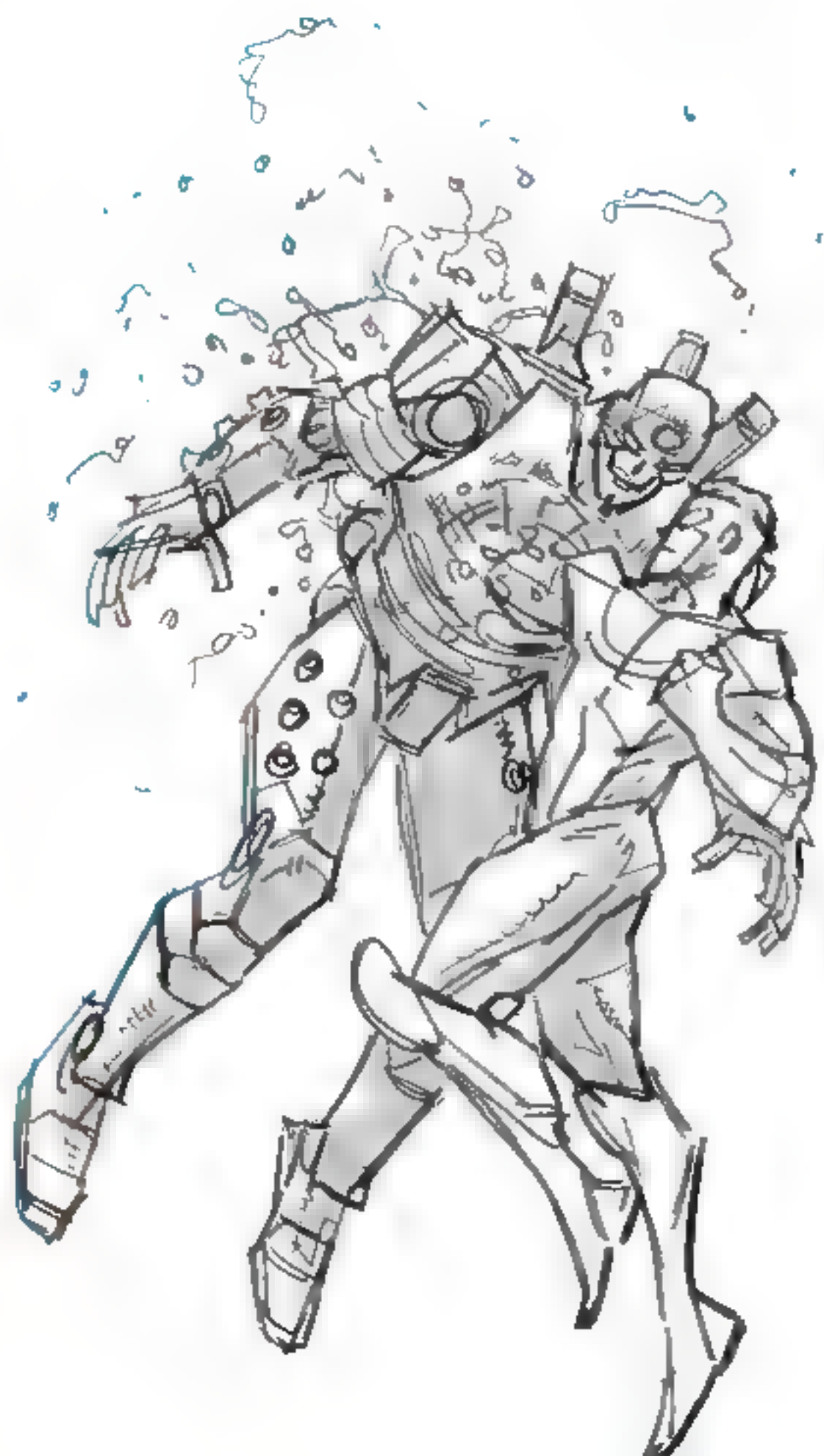
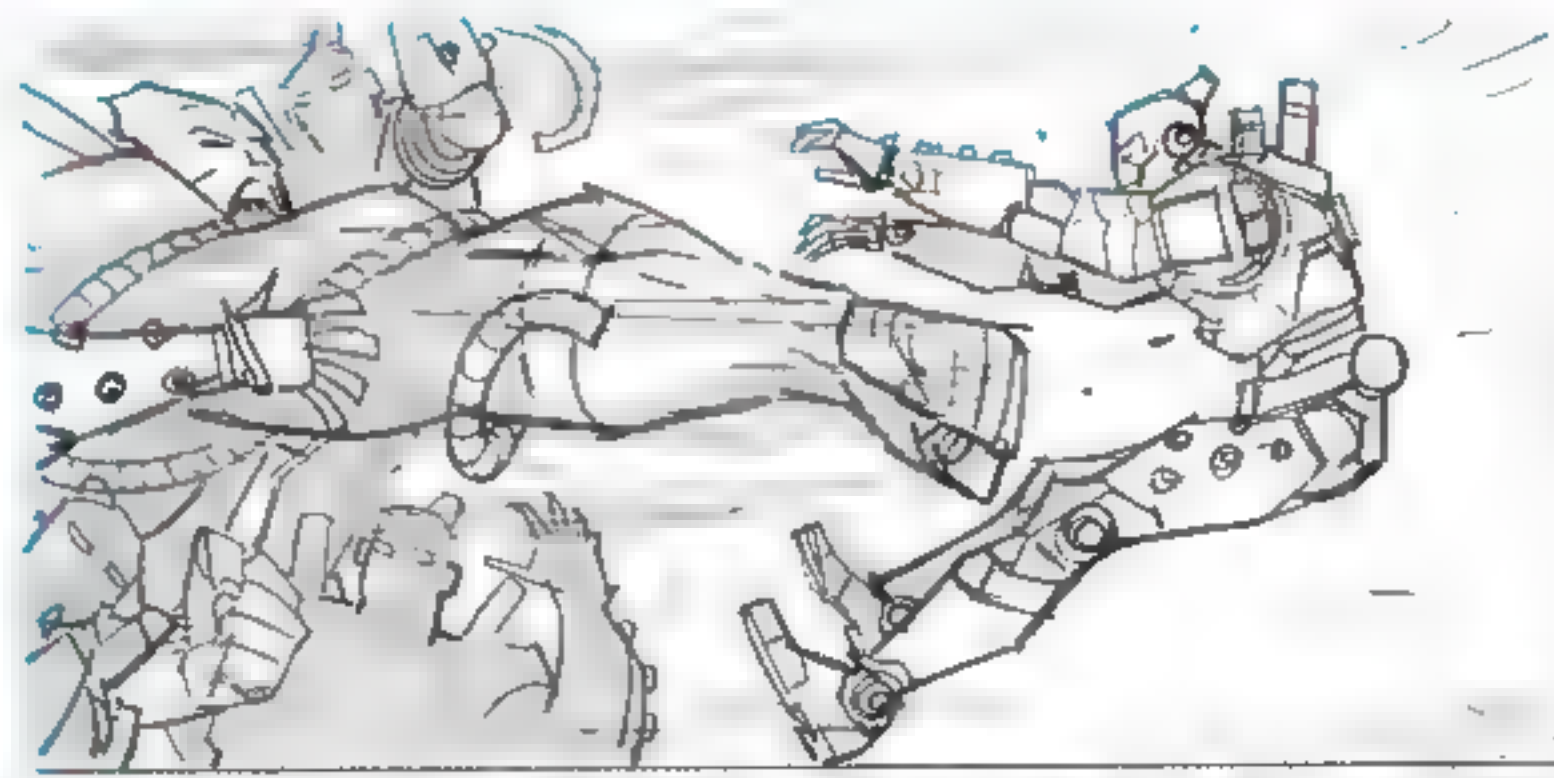
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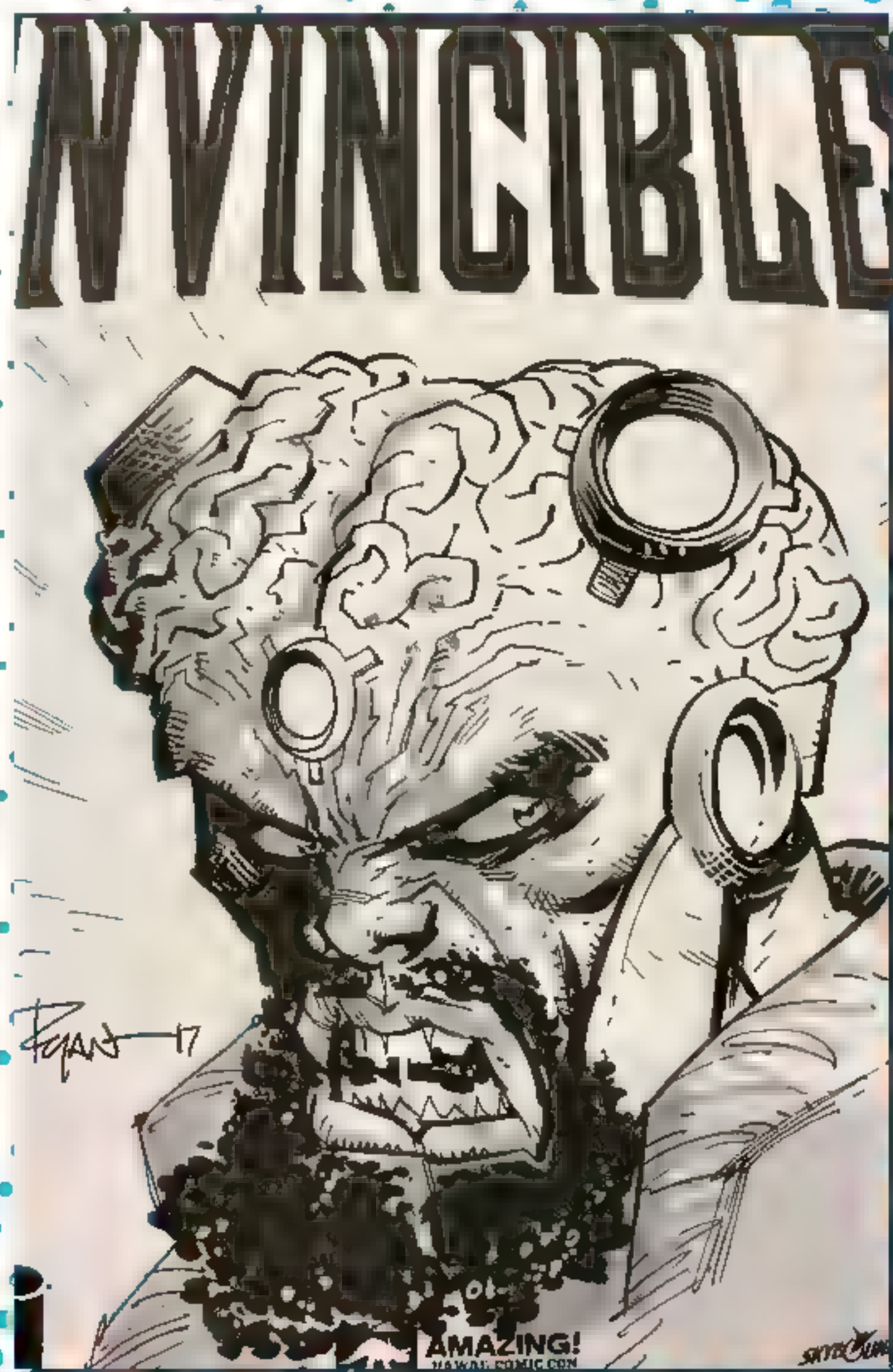
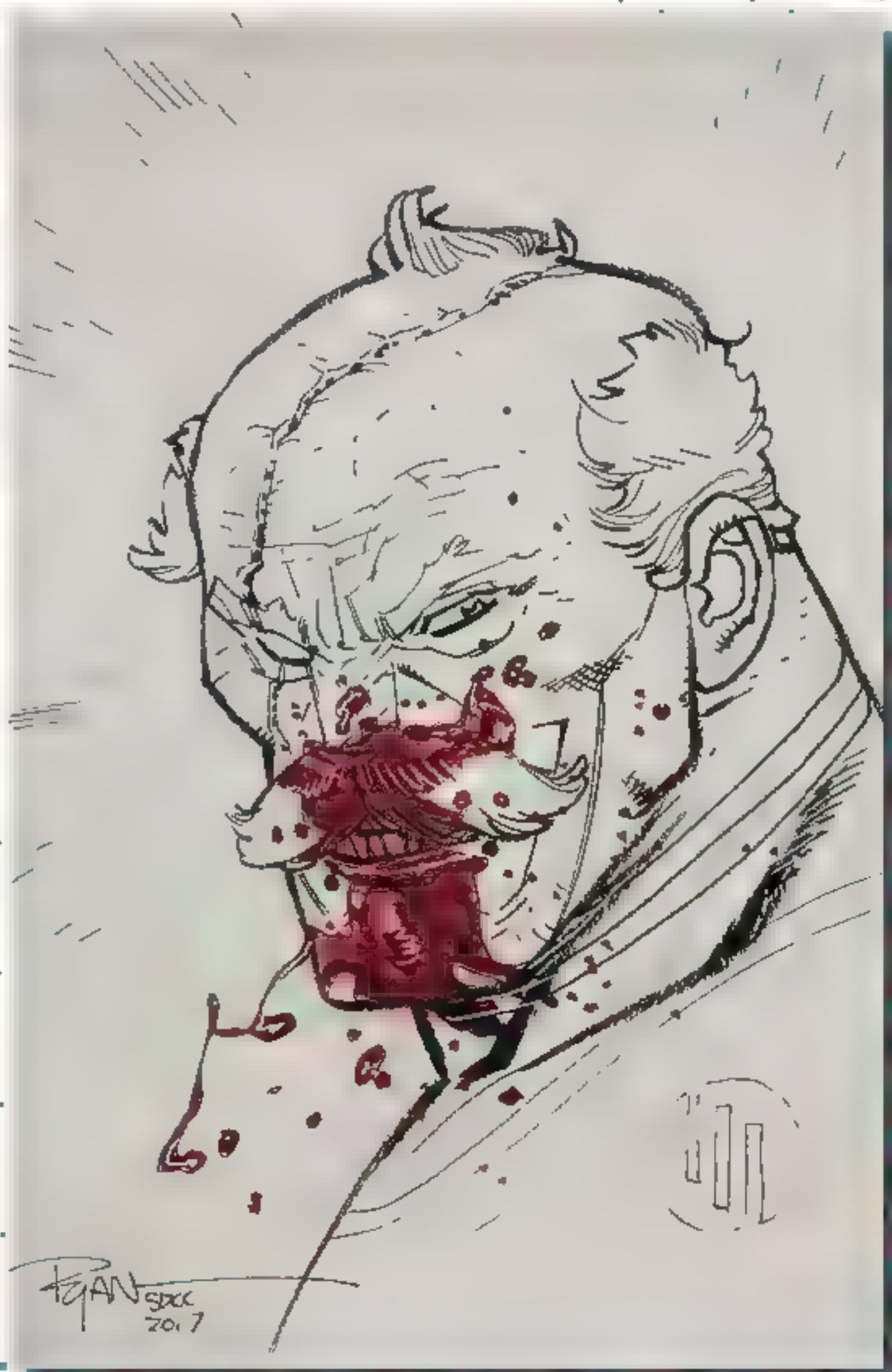
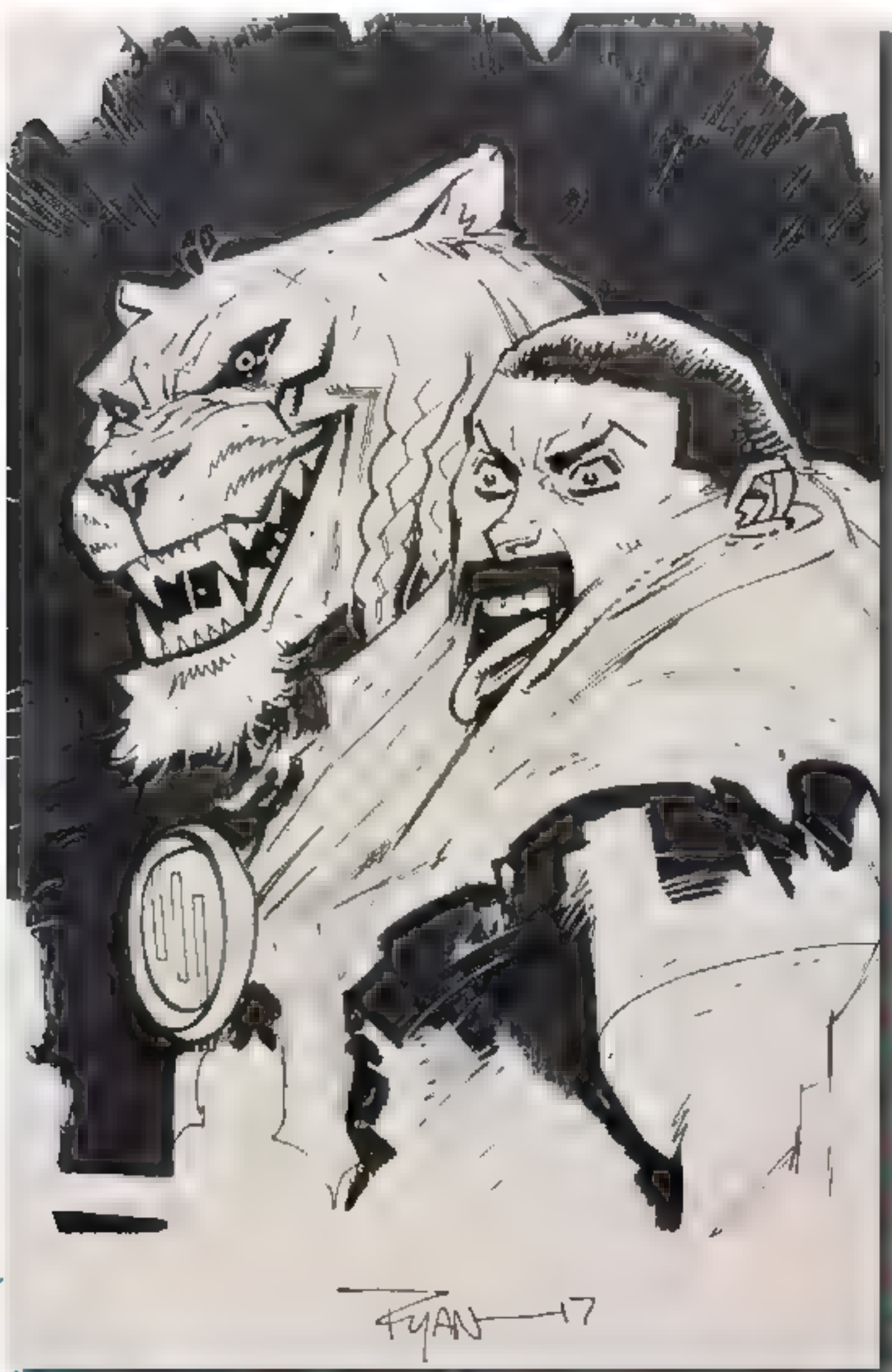
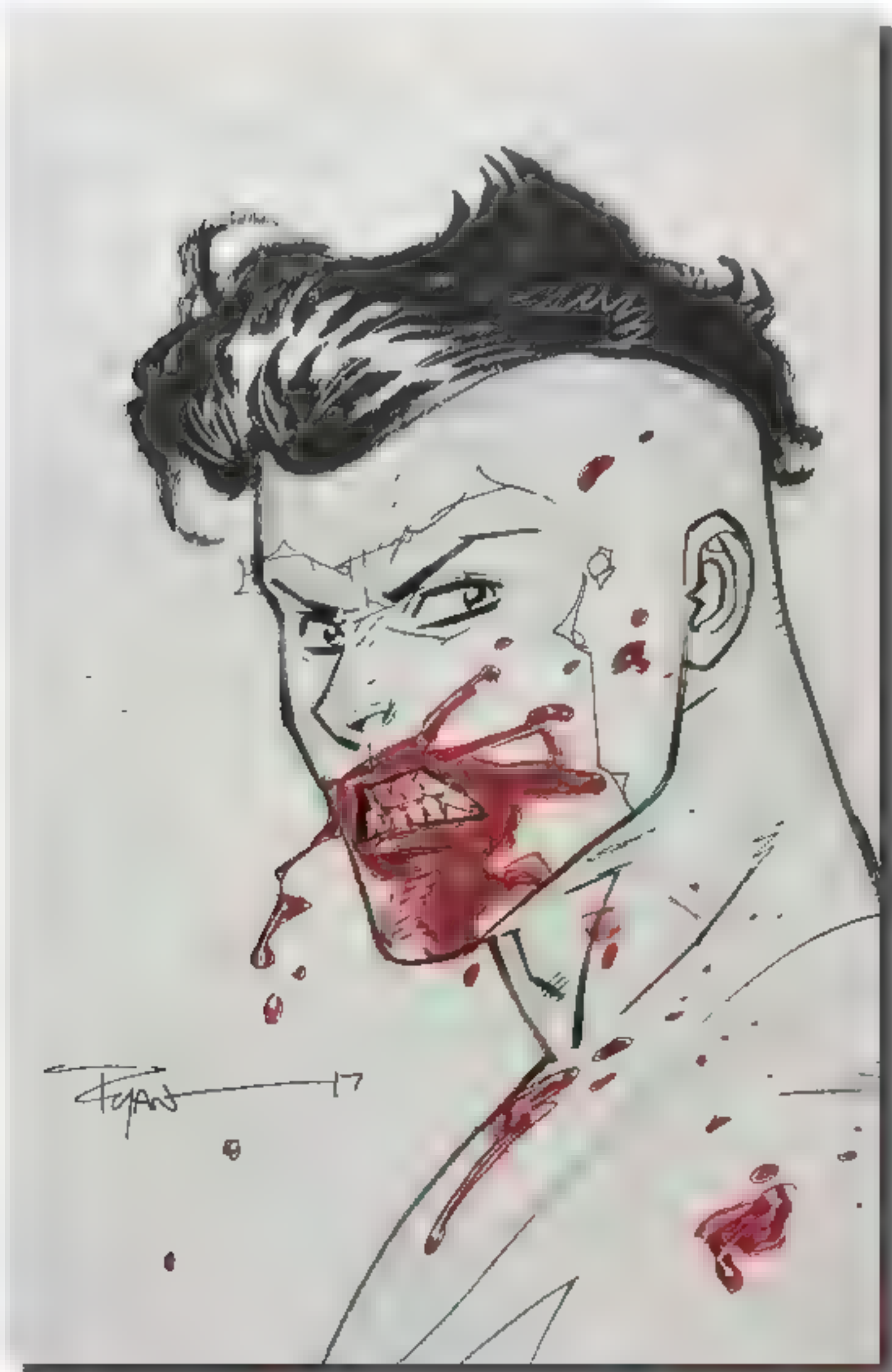
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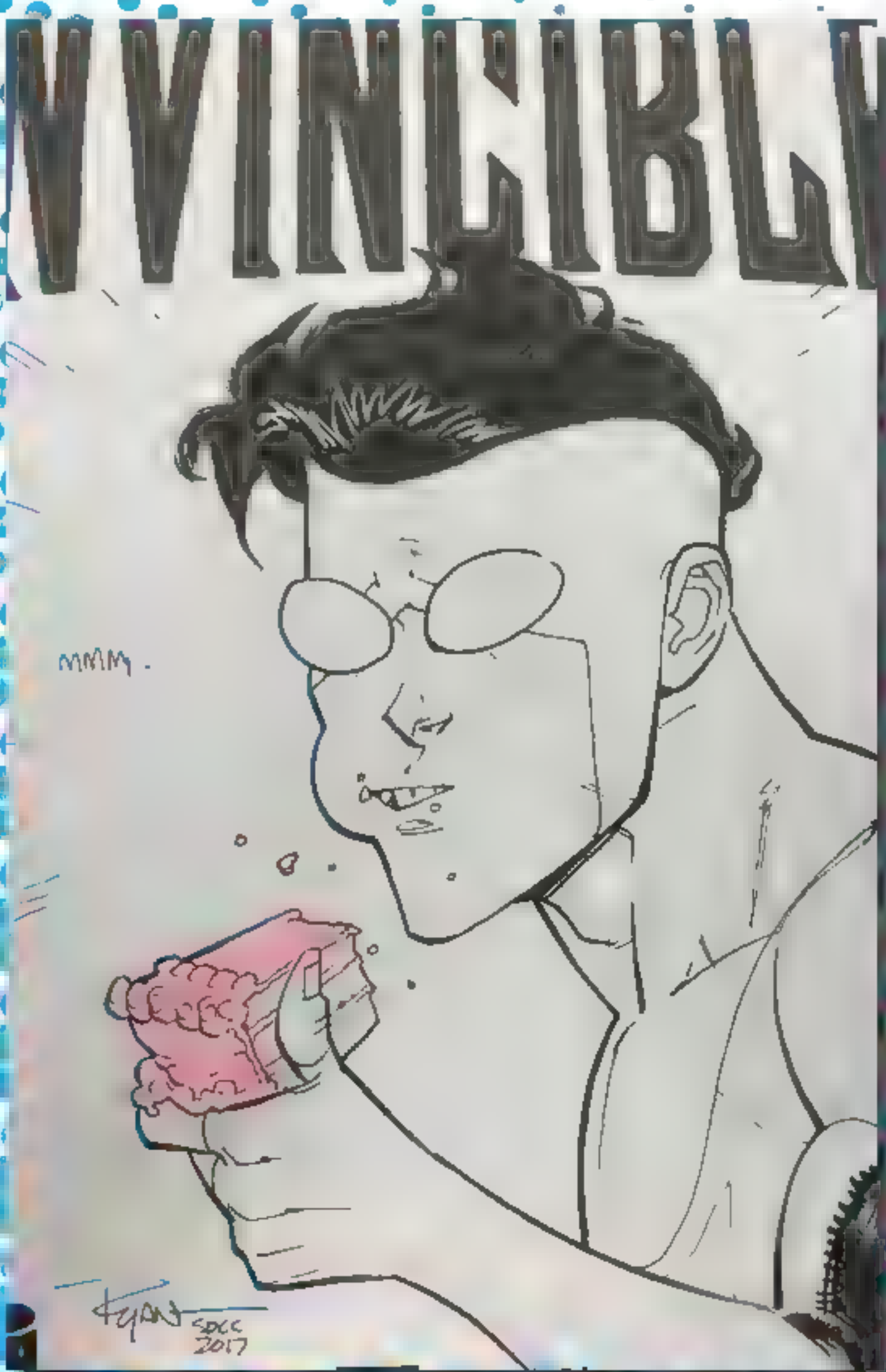
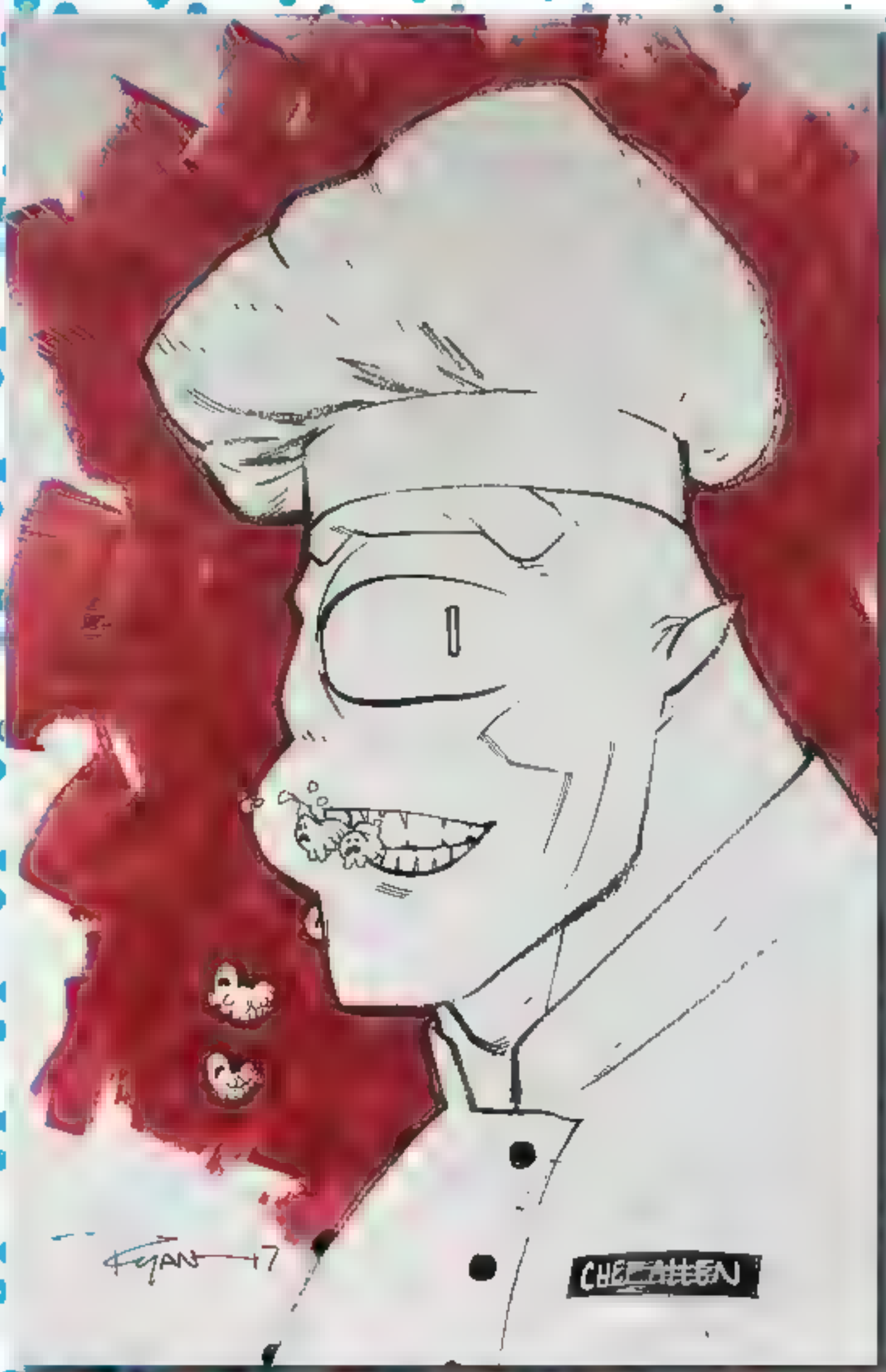
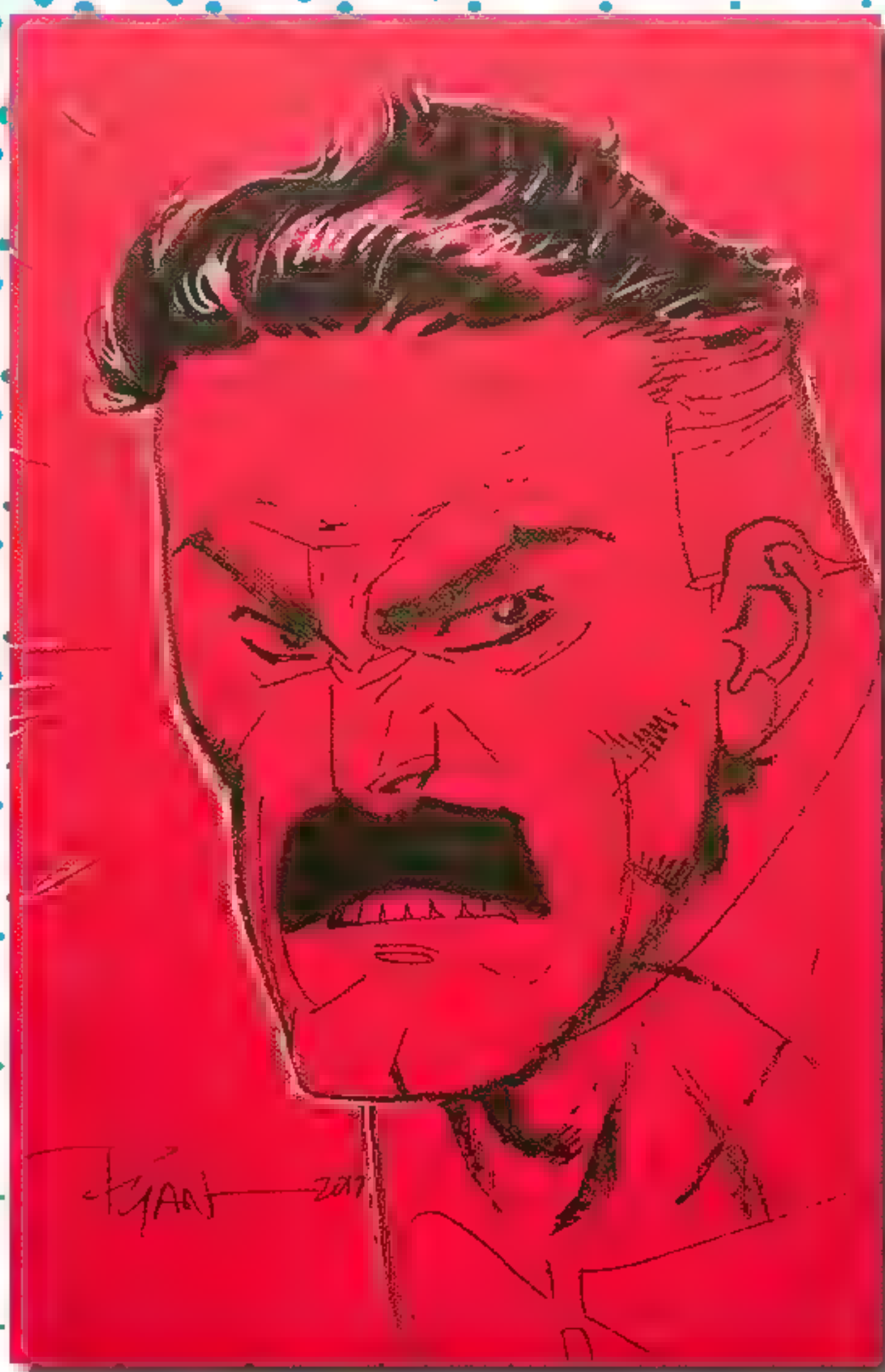
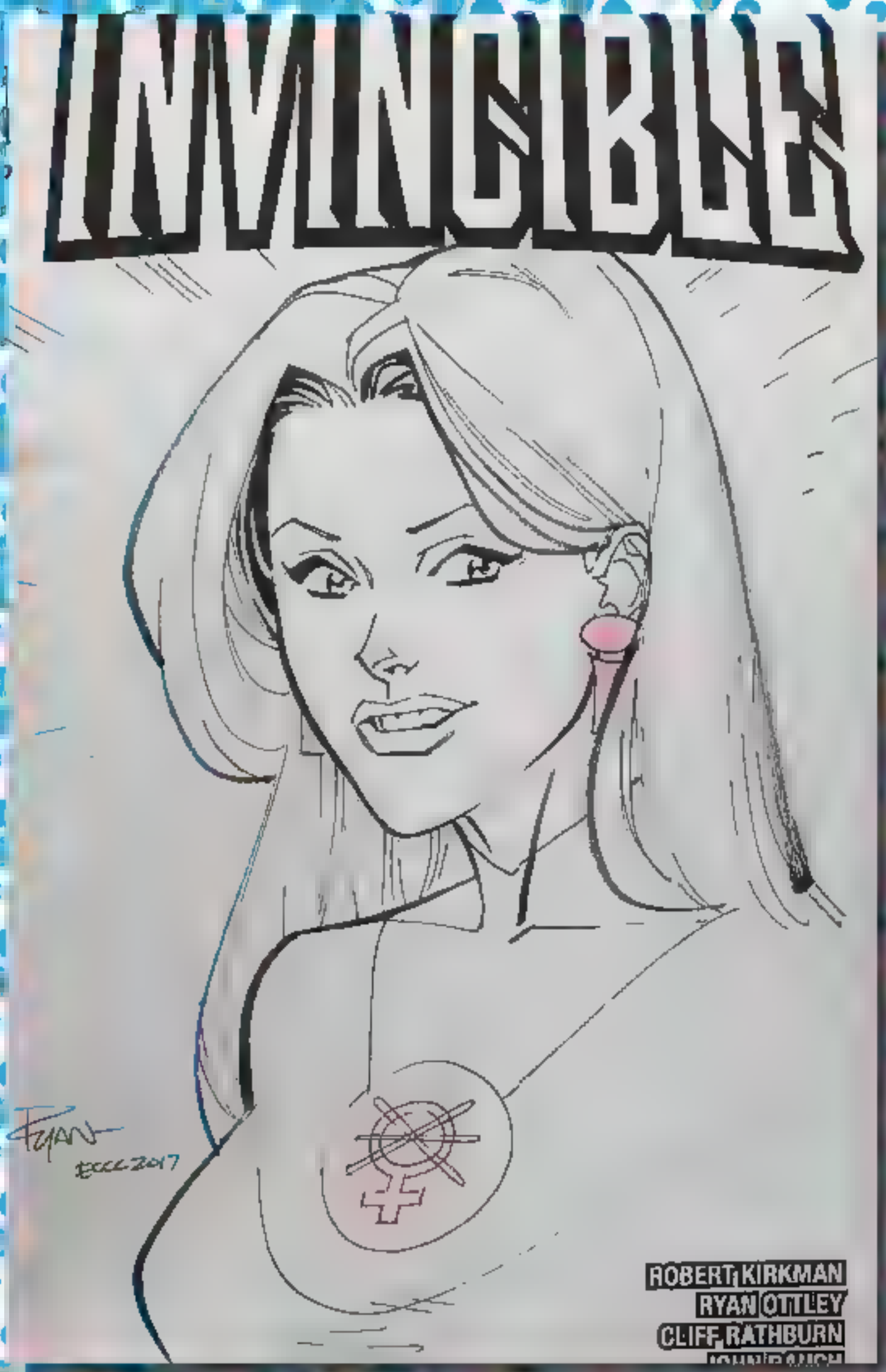
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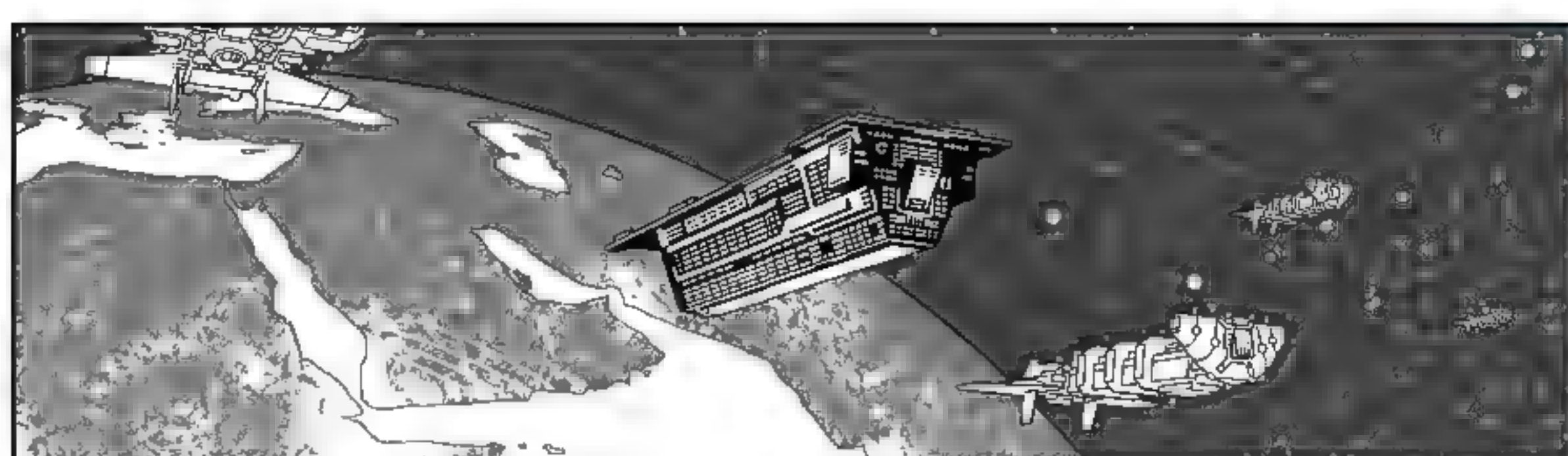
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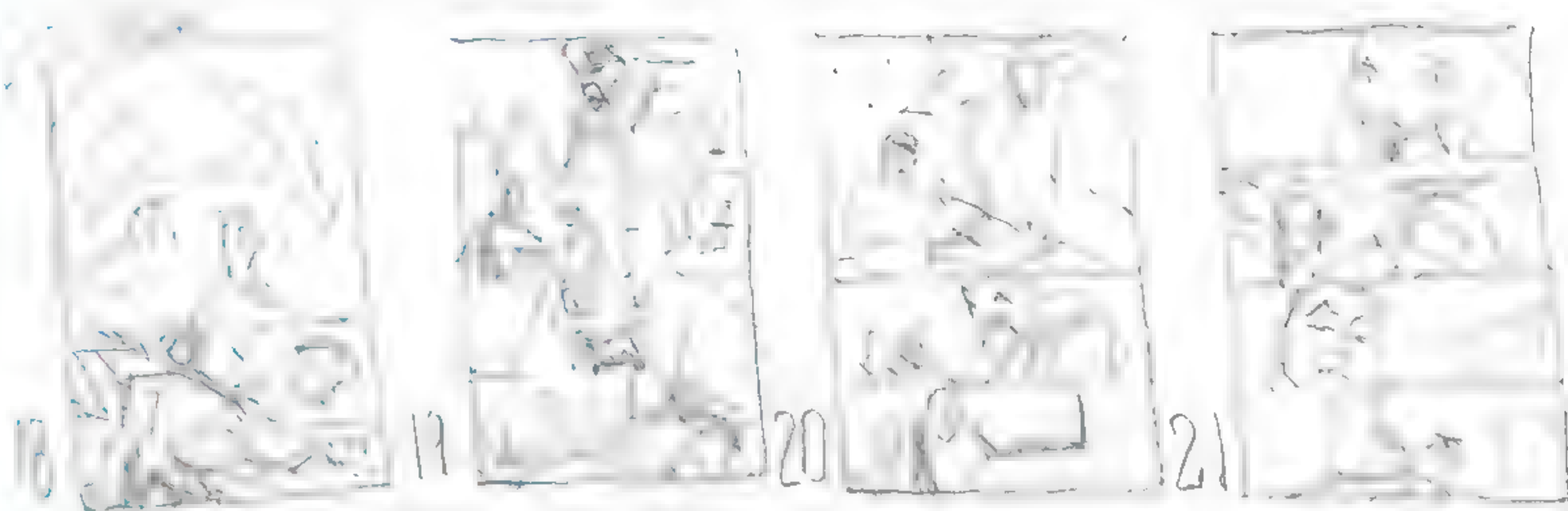
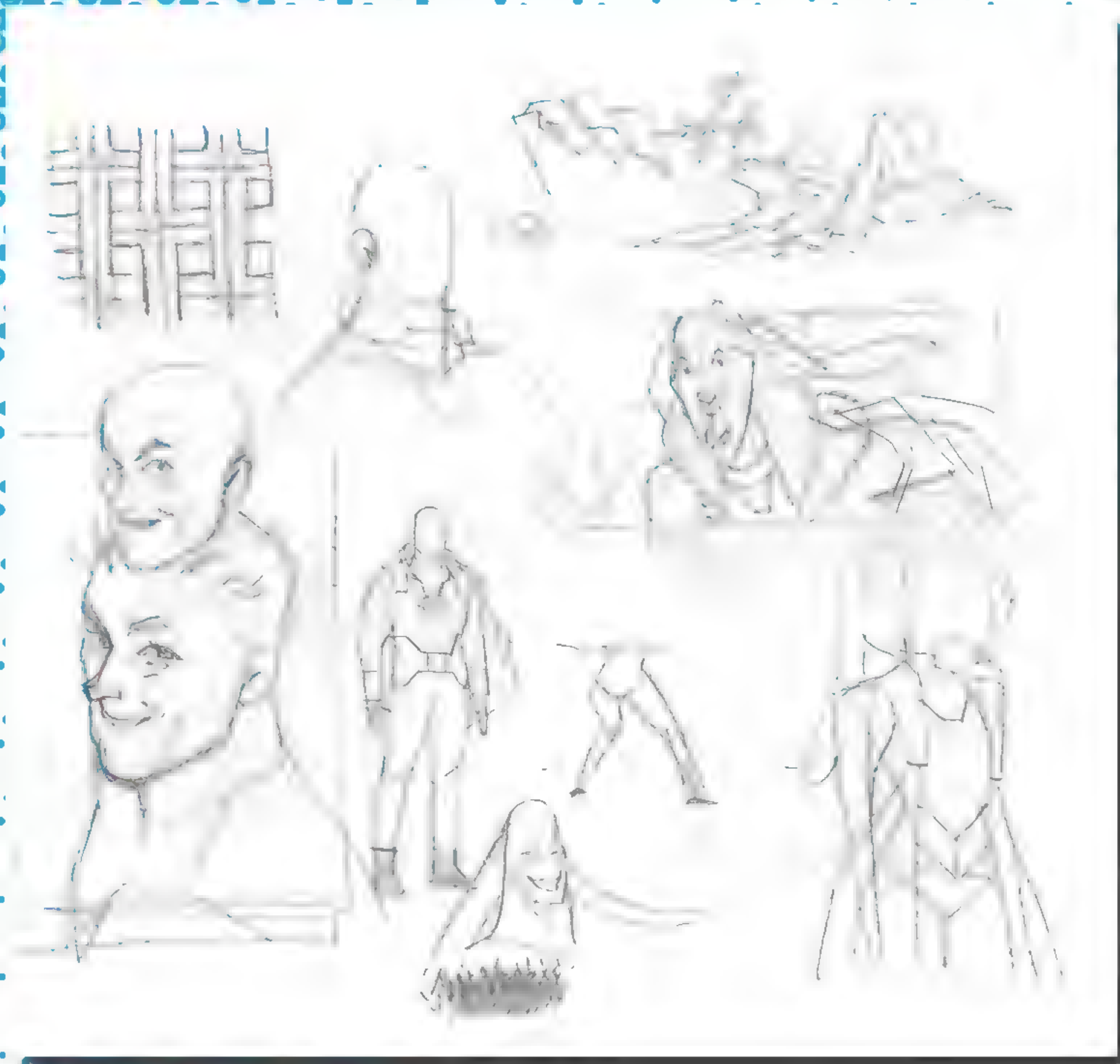


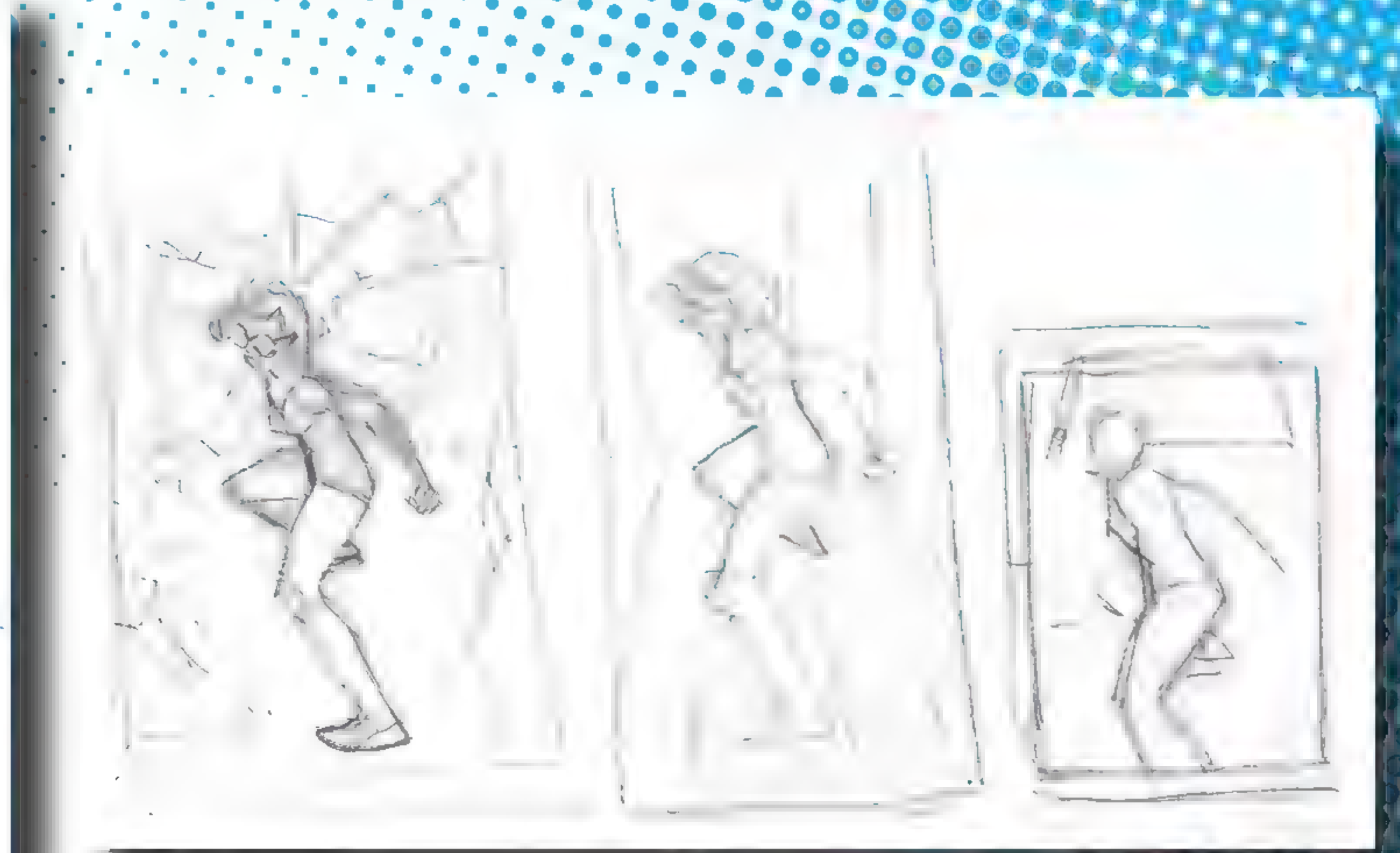




CORY WALKER: You've seen the best, now see the rest! Welcome to the Cory Walker section of the last ever INVINCIBLE TPB sketchbook.

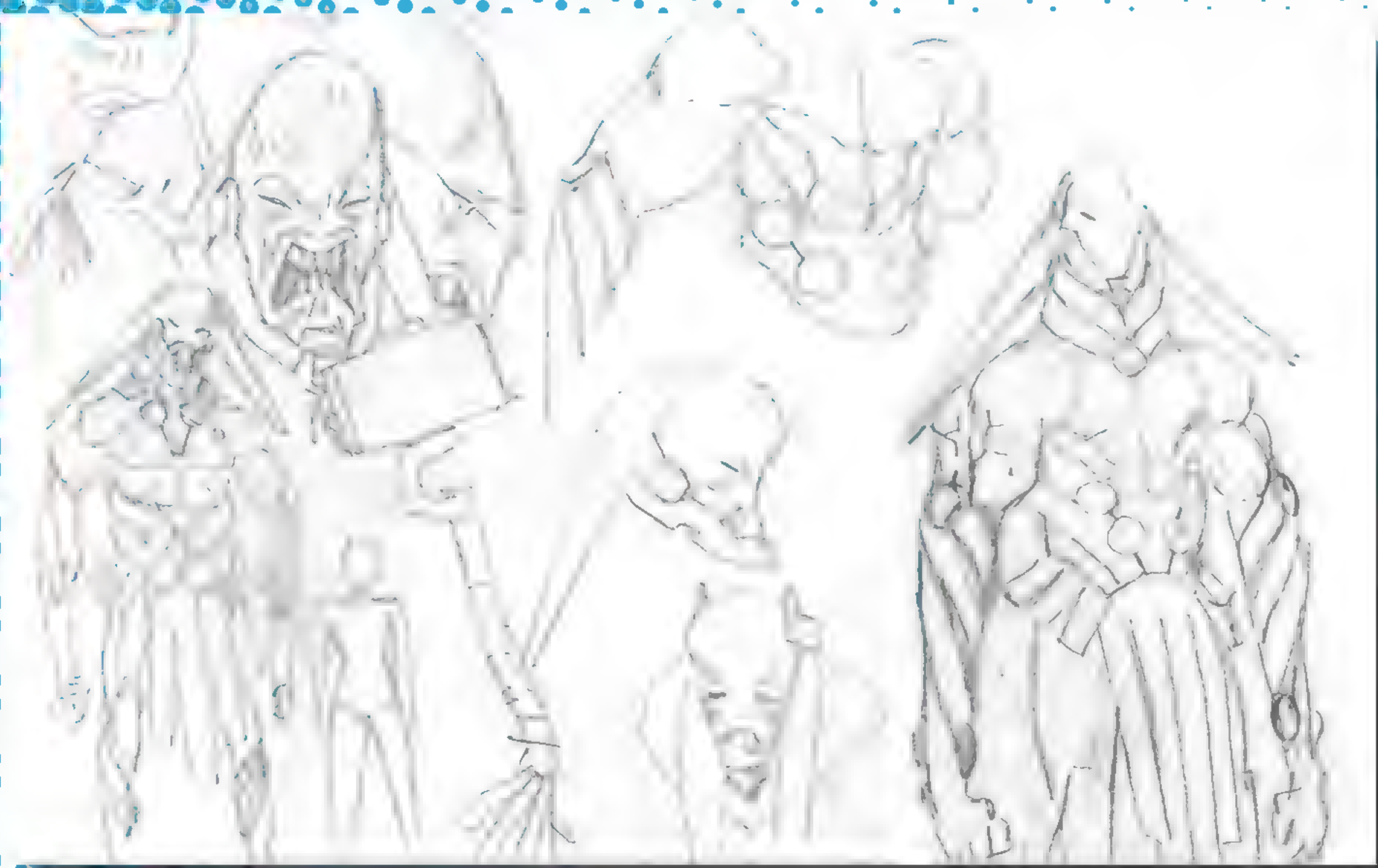
Anyway, most of this stuff is pretty self-explanatory, but feel free to make a game out of spotting and identifying the development sketches, page layouts and final inked pages and covers. But before you do that, please allow me to thank you all for supporting this book through the years, and tolerating the few times that I've taken the reins from Ryan and tormented you all with my sub-par Mark and Eve drawings. It means the world to me to have been even a small part of this wonderful INVINCIBLE thing. Love you lots. Enjoy!











ROBERT KIRKMAN: And there you have it, the end of **INVINCIBLE**. I hope it was everything everyone wanted. I know I'm satisfied with where we ended up.

When we started this series **FIFTEEN** years ago, I had high hopes that it would last a good, long time and be a memorable series, but I never could have imagined a fifteen-year, one hundred and forty-four issue run! You may not know this, but there was a time I was pretty sure issue #13 was going to be the last issue. Then, miraculously, sales on issue #12 spiked up a teeny tiny bit, and sales continued to spike until the book was healthy, and we were able to go as long as we wanted... which is, sadly, until now.

This series is everything I've ever loved about superhero comics crammed into one series. I think it's fulfilled that promise, and while there's certainly other things I love about superhero comics, I think our story is told. Mark Grayson radically changed his alien race from a warring scourge of the galaxy to the saviors of the galaxy. His story is told. His mission, that he didn't even fully realize he was on, has been completed... and he got to live happily ever after.

I wonder how many of you thought this series would end with everyone dying a horrible death?

It's been such a gift to be able to write this series for this long, to be allowed to explore this world fully, dig into these characters, and, y'know... torture them for as long as we have. I thank you for the **YEARS** of support you've given us. We could never have done this without you. This series is a dream come true for me, and I will never be able to thank you properly for allowing me to do it.

I want to thank Ryan and Cory for joining me on this journey. Cory, even though he didn't draw all the issues, was a continued presence, helping to guide things by designing new characters here and there, and griping at me when he didn't like where the story was going or whatever dumb thing I'd told him I was planning. Ryan has been the heart and soul of this book since issue #8. While I've spent the better part of a week out of every month writing scripts for this series... Ryan has been chained to a table slaving away non-stop for that entire time! He still managed to squeeze in some *Haunt*, a DC annual, *Space Grub*, *Grizzly Shark*, a bunch of covers, and a few odds and ends in that time. It's been remarkable seeing him grow into one of the best artists in comics in that time. This book would never have survived without Ryan pulling all of our weight.

I want to thank Cliff Rathburn for pitching in on inks for more than half of Ryan's issues. Cliff has long been my secret weapon, working on all kinds of Skybound books. Is it okay to reveal that Cliff will be working with Ryan on the project he has lined up for after this? I'm excited about it! It's going to be amazing! Also, big thanks to Mark Morales and Dexter Vines for helping out during this final run.

I want to thank the elite team of colorists who brought us here. Bill Crabtree, FCO Plascencia, Nikos Koutis, John Rauch, Jean-Francois Beaulieu and Nathan Fairbairn! Each one brought their own style and take to these characters, and kept the book looking fresh and new as we marched through the years.

Rus Wooton! He's lettered this book since I threw in the towel after issue #13. (Lettering is hard, people.) It's a thankless job that doesn't get a lot of attention in comics, but it's oh-so essential, and Rus has become one of the best of the best in his field. You see his name in almost every great comic being published today. Thanks for lending your talents to this book for so long, Rus!

I'd like to thank Aubrey Sitterson, Sina Grace and, of course, the esteemed Mr. Sean Mackiewicz for stepping into the editor role when I got too big and important to keep track of all the behind the scenes stuff, and keeping the trains running on time. We definitely would have never made it this far without them.

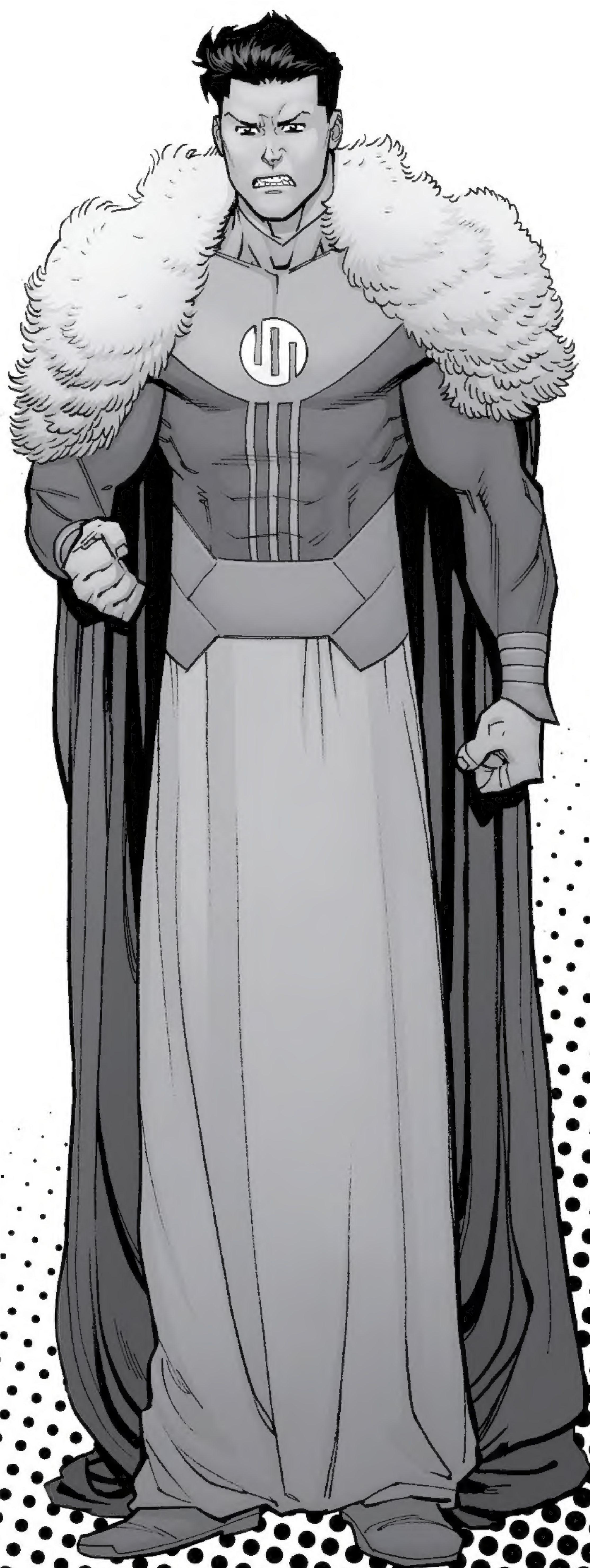
Huge thanks to Eric Stephenson, Jim Valentino and Erik Larsen for helping this book land at Image Comics, giving it the platform it's had, and also for a ton of help and advice along the way. Jim Valentino, when I told him Omni-Man was going to kill the Guardians of the Globe in issue #25 and reveal that he's a bad guy, responded, "Move that up or there's not going to be an issue #25!" And when I told him I might be able to push it to issue #12, said, "Can you get it in issue #5?" And that got me to put it in issue #7. The series **DEFINITELY** wouldn't have made it to issue #25 if he hadn't done that. Thanks, Jim!

Erik Larsen deserves to be called out separately, as my love for *Savage Dragon* could be pointed to as my main source of inspiration for this comic. So, if you're reading this and haven't read that series, fix that! Erik also helped out with cover designs in the early days and talked me off a ledge or two more than once. He's been a great mentor, and if you're struggling to break into comics, he's a good friend to have.

Eric Stephenson remains, to this day, the best advocate for new ideas in comics. He championed this book from day one, and was also instrumental in helping a little-known zombie series find its audience. It's no wonder he's risen through the ranks to become the best publisher Image Comics has ever had.

Lastly, I'll thank David Alpert, my Skybound partner. He's been there since damn near day one, always pushing me to not suck. Without him, you wouldn't have all the cool upcoming **INVINCIBLE** non-comics stuff... like the movie we're currently developing at Universal with Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg... or all the other stuff we haven't announced yet. This comic is most certainly **NOT** the end.

Also, a huge thank you to all the other people who got us here, but didn't leave enough of an impression (heh!) to get a thank you here in this column! I still love you. It was just an oversight. If it makes you feel better, you're one of the only people actually reading this.



SUPERHERO

Thragg has pushed Mark to his limit, as alliances shift while the biggest, most brutal, most monumental battle in INVINCIBLE history rages on! Everything since issue #1 has been building to this. When it's over... Mark Grayson's story is over. Nothing can prepare you for **THE END OF ALL THINGS.**

This volume collects issues 139-144 of the Eisner-nominated series.



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R. OTTLEY

